

"Bound to have readers invested in the blossoming mystery." — Comic Watch

THE AVENGERS



MAC KAY
VILLA
FIORELLI
BLEE

THE IMPOSSIBLE CITY

MARVEL

THE AVENGERS

THE IMPOSSIBLE CITY





THE STAR
CAPTAIN MARVEL



THE ICON
CAPTAIN AMERICA



THE WITCH
SCARLET WITCH



THE CONSTRUCT
THE VISION



THE GOD
THOR



THE ENGINEER
IRON MAN



THE KING
BLACK PANTHER

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AND THERE CAME A DAY, A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER, WHEN EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES FOUND THEMSELVES UNITED AGAINST A COMMON THREAT — ON THAT DAY, THE AVENGERS WERE BORN. TO FIGHT THE FOES NO SINGLE SUPER HERO COULD WITHSTAND!

THE AVENGERS

THE IMPOSSIBLE CITY

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TIMELESS (2022) #1

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AVENGERS CREATED BY **STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY**



TIMELESS 1

PROLOGUE.

THE MASSACRE AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF
PHEARTHON.

A CRIME THAT WOULD LIVE ON IN INFAMY.
AN ENTIRE PLANET DEVOTED TO THE
PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE FROM ACROSS
THE GALAXY, FILLED WITH SCHOLARS
AND ARTISTS AND ACADEMICS.

OBLITERATED IN A *SINGLE*
DAY OF ONE-SIDED WAR BY
BELLIGERENTS *UNKNOWN*.

I HEARD *STORIES*
OF THE MASSACRE WHEN
I WAS YOUNGER, *FIRST*
BRANCHING OUT ACROSS
THE STARS IN PURSUIT
OF MY *DESTINY*.

WHAT, I HAD WONDERED,
COULD *POSSESS* A MAN
TO DESTROY SOMETHING
OF SUCH *BEAUTY*, SUCH A
WEALTH OF INFORMATION?

LIKE THE TALE OF
THE *LOST LIBRARY*
OF ALEXANDRIA,
I WAS *FASCINATED*
WITH THE UNIVERSITY'S
MYSTERIOUS DEMISE.

IMAGINE MY SURPRISE WHEN
I REALIZED THAT IT WAS *ME*
WHO HAD/WOULD DESTROY
IT IN THE FIRST PLACE.

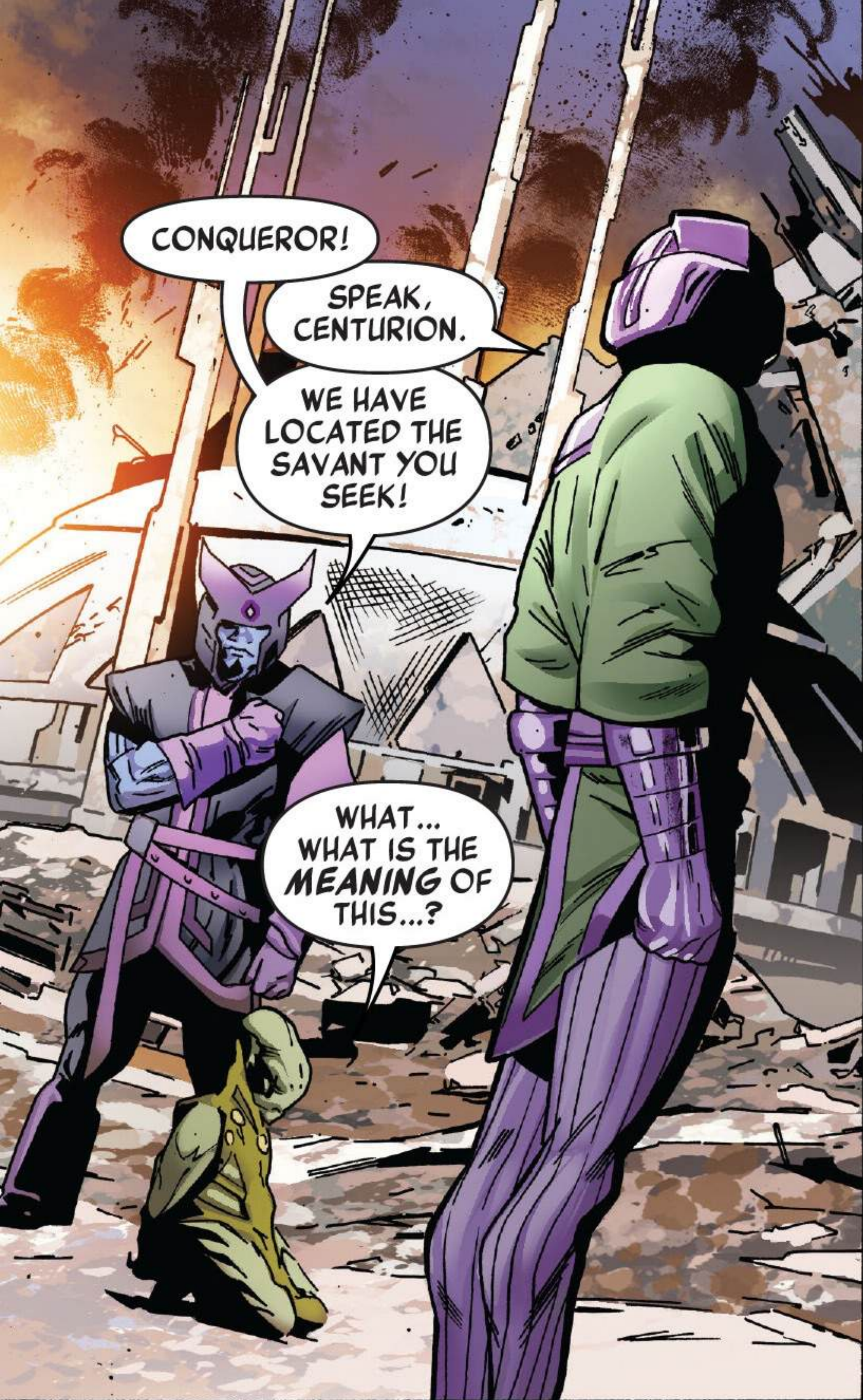
AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, TIME
TRAVEL STILL CREATES SUCH
INTERESTING SITUATIONS,
EVEN FOR ONE SO ADMITTEDLY
JADED AS MYSELF.

I AM
KANG
CALLED
THE CONQUEROR.

AND THERE IS
NOTHING I DO
NOT CALL *MINE*
IF I WISH IT.

NO THING,
SAVE FOR
ONE.





CONQUEROR!

SPEAK,
CENTURION.

WE HAVE
LOCATED THE
SAVANT YOU
SEEK!

WHAT...
WHAT IS THE
MEANING OF
THIS...?

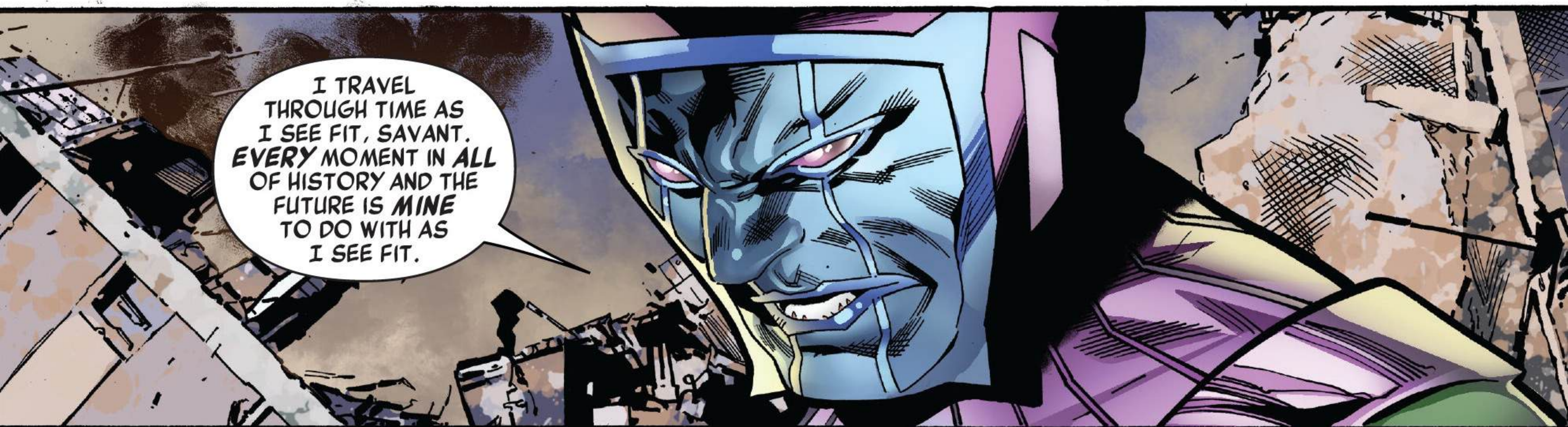


DO YOU
KNOW WHO
I AM?

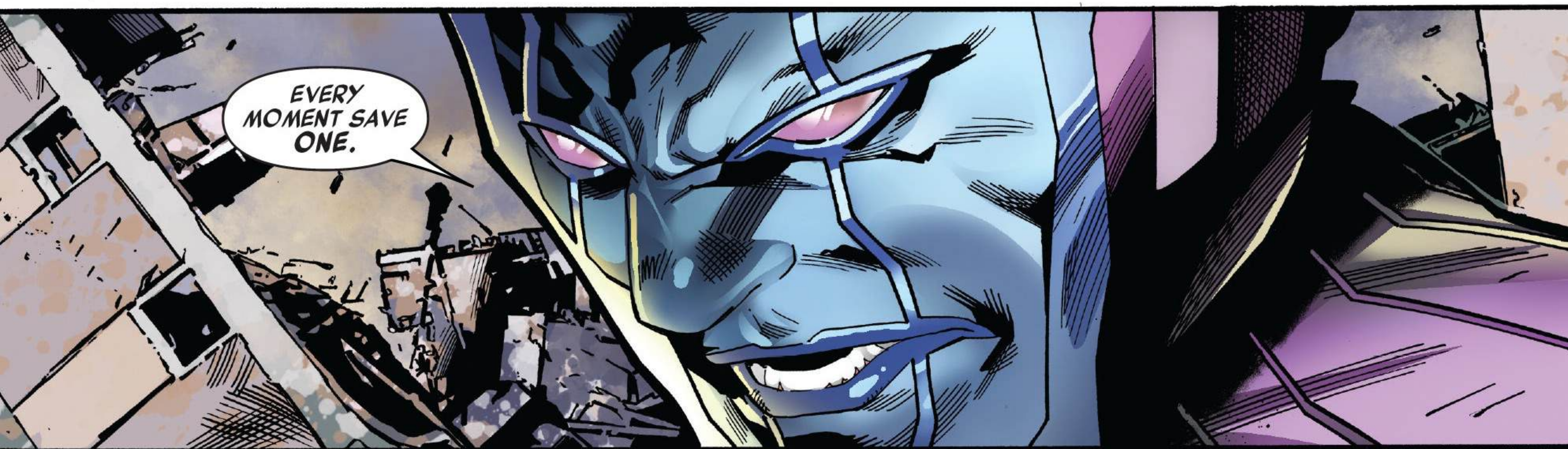


...

KANG.



I TRAVEL
THROUGH TIME AS
I SEE FIT, SAVANT.
EVERY MOMENT IN **ALL**
OF HISTORY AND THE
FUTURE IS **MINE**
TO DO WITH AS
I SEE FIT.

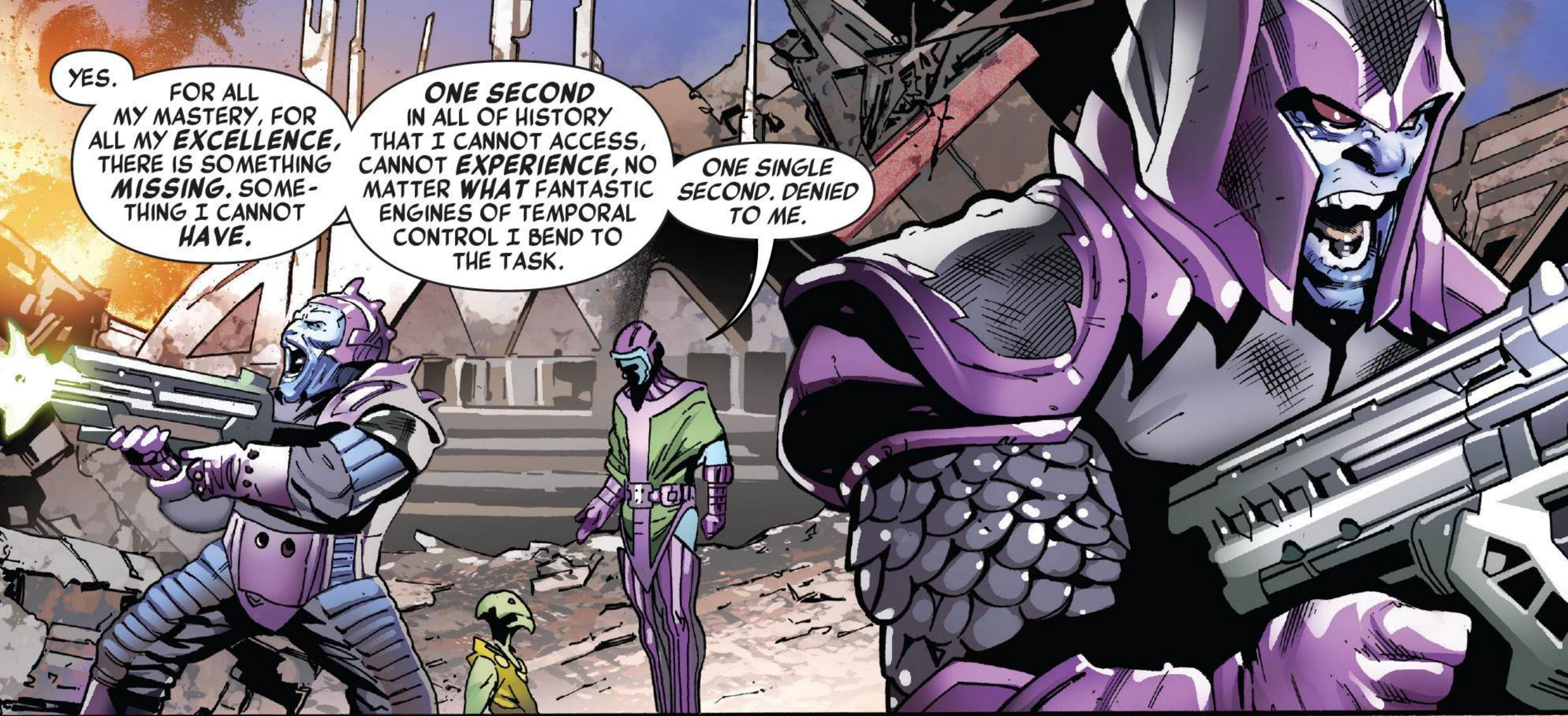


EVERY
MOMENT SAVE
ONE.



AH. I
UNDERSTAND.

YOU SEEK
THE **MISSING**
MOMENT.



YES. FOR ALL MY MASTERY, FOR ALL MY **EXCELLENCE**, THERE IS SOMETHING **MISSING**. SOMETHING I CANNOT HAVE.

ONE SECOND IN ALL OF HISTORY THAT I CANNOT ACCESS, CANNOT **EXPERIENCE**, NO MATTER WHAT FANTASTIC ENGINES OF TEMPORAL CONTROL I BEND TO THE TASK.

ONE SINGLE SECOND. DENIED TO ME.



YOU KNOW MY NAME. YOU KNOW WHO I AM.

THEREFORE, YOU KNOW WHAT LENGTHS I WILL GO TO WHEN I AM THWARTED-- **INCONVENIENCED**-- IN MY ENDEAVORS.



THE MISSING MOMENT. THE **HIDDEN STARTING POINT** OF THE ROAD TO THE **GREATEST PRIZE** IN ALL OF HISTORY.

DO YOU WISH TO KNOW WHAT THAT PRIZE **IS**?



TELL ME.

I AM THE BEST OF MY SPECIES, THERE IS **NOTHING** I CANNOT DO IN THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE.



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A PRIZE WITHOUT COMPARE, EH, KANG?

I TOLD YOU THAT AS MY **DEATH CURSE**, SO YOU WILL FOREVER BE HAUNTED BY WHAT IS **DENIED** TO YOU.

THE TRIBULATION EVENTS MUST BE MET BY **HEROES**.

NOT BLOODY-HANDED TYRANTS.



ONE YEAR LATER,
SUBJECTIVE TIME.

CONQUEST FLEET "TEMPEST,"
FLAGSHIP PROSPERO.

LOOKING BACK,
THAT WAS PERHAPS
NOT ONE OF MY
FINEST MOMENTS.

NOT THE PROPER
ACTIONS OF THE
CONQUEROR.

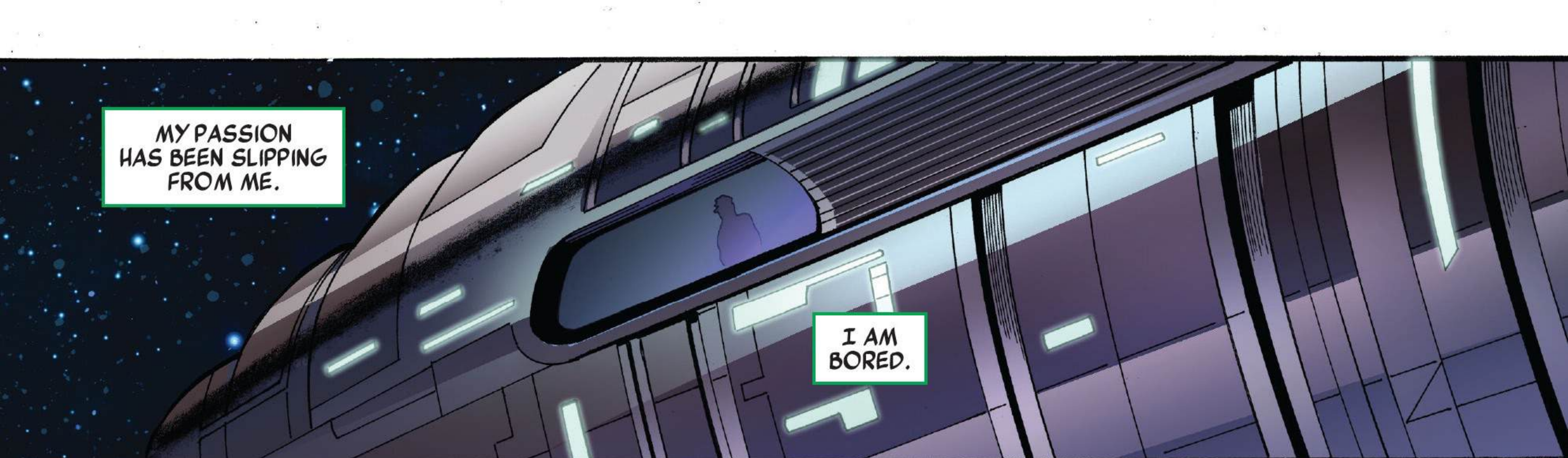
BUT I REMIND MYSELF THAT
I AM NO GOD, NO ABSTRACT
FORCE OF THE UNIVERSE. I MAY
HAVE THE **EQUIVALENT POWER**
OF ONE AT MY COMMAND, BUT
I REMAIN A **HUMAN**, A **MAN**.

TO BE HUMAN IS TO
BE AT THE MERCY OF
ONE'S **PASSIONS**.

IT IS NOT A WEAKNESS
TO BE **FEARED**, OR A
FLAW TO BE **MASTERED**,
BUT RATHER ANOTHER
FACET OF HUMANITY
TO BE APPRECIATED
AND SAVED.

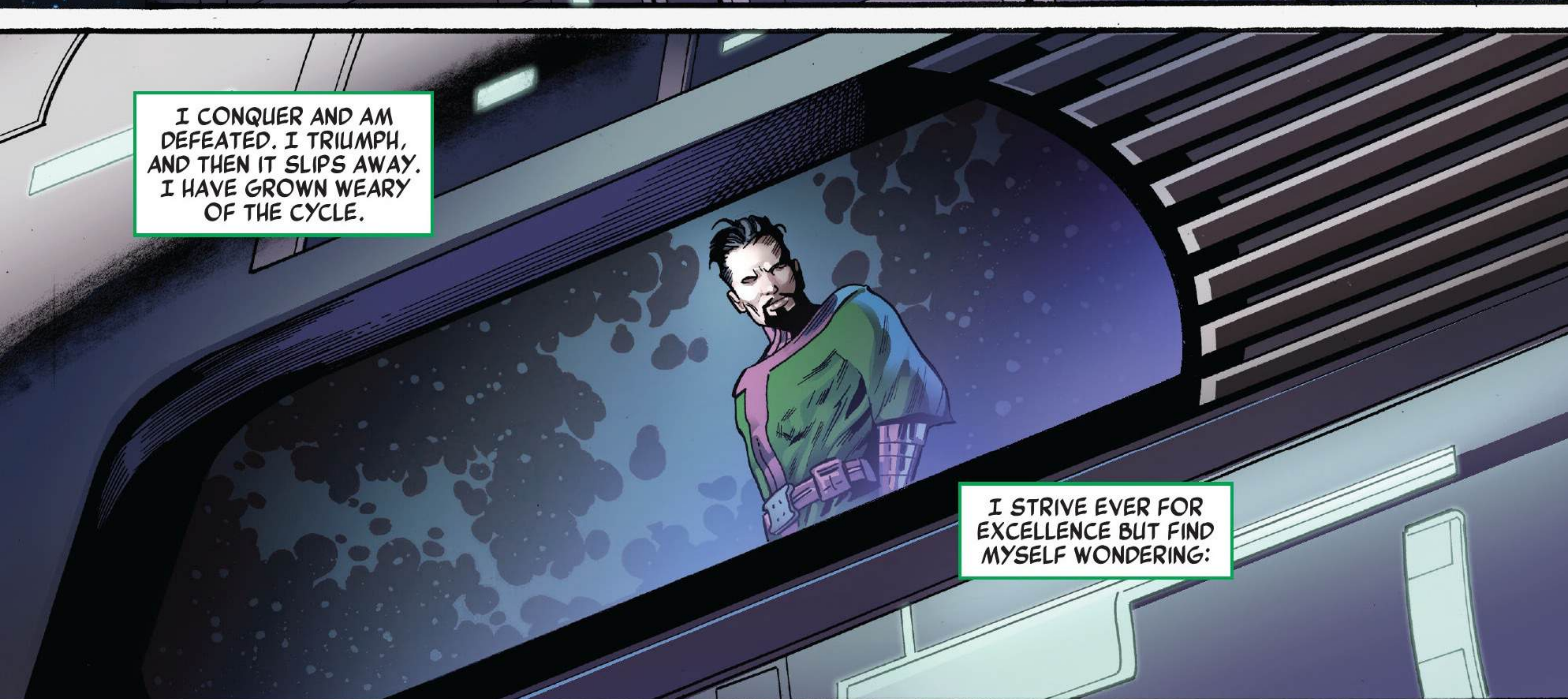
FOR WITHOUT OUR
PASSIONS, WHAT
IS **HUMANITY**?

BYRON ASKED ME THAT,
ONCE. I **FEAR**, AS OF
LATE, THAT I AM TO FIND
OUT THE **ANSWER** TO
THAT QUESTION.



MY PASSION
HAS BEEN SLIPPING
FROM ME.

I AM
BORED.



I CONQUER AND AM
DEFEATED. I TRIUMPH,
AND THEN IT SLIPS AWAY.
I HAVE GROWN WEARY
OF THE CYCLE.

I STRIVE EVER FOR
EXCELLENCE BUT FIND
MYSELF WONDERING:



HAVE I REACHED
MY OWN LIMITS?

IS THIS THE POINT
AT WHICH I CEASE TO
BE KANG AND BEGIN
TO BE IMMORTUS?



FAUGH.

WHICH IS WHY
I MUST PURSUE
THE MISSING
MOMENT.

STRIVING AFTER THAT
WHICH I CANNOT HAVE,
THAT IS THE *ESSENCE*
OF KANG.



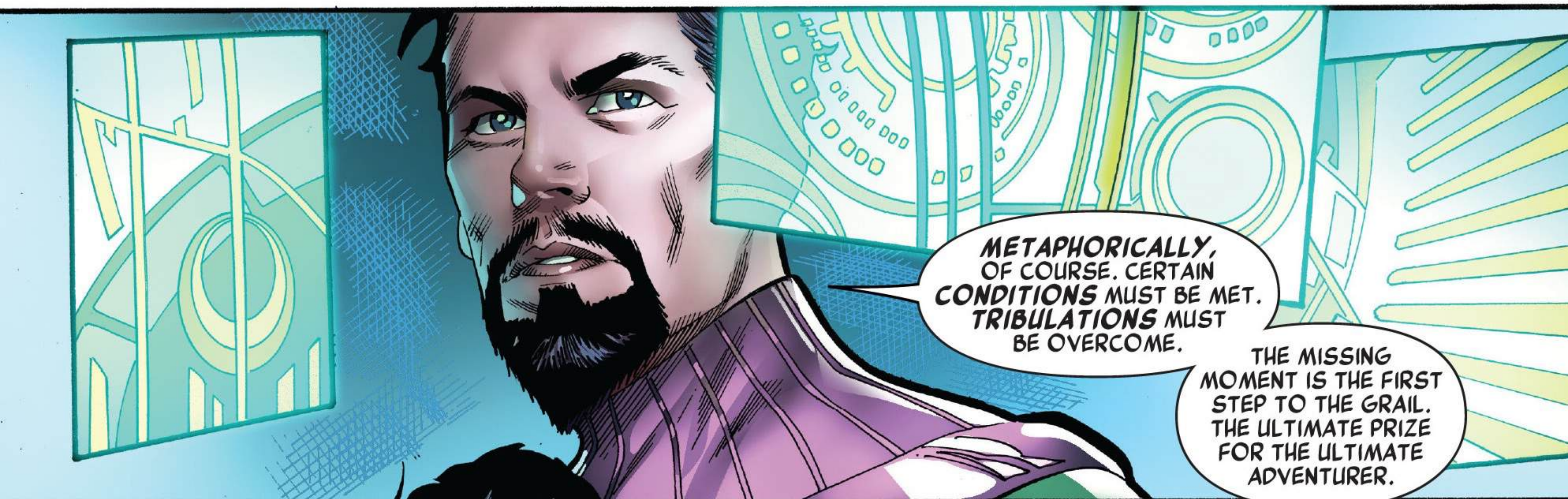
PERSONAL
LOG, BEGIN
RECORDING:

THE MISSING
MOMENT CONTINUES
TO ELUDE ME.



IT CANNOT BE ACCESSED
VIA TIME-TRAVEL TECHNOLOGY.
IT CAN ONLY, ACCORDING TO
SCHOLARS WHO HAVE STUDIED
ITS LEGENDS THEIR ENTIRE
LIVES, BE **UNLOCKED**.

AND IN
ORDER TO DO
SO, A **KEY** MUST
BE FORGED.



METAPHORICALLY,
OF COURSE. CERTAIN
CONDITIONS MUST BE MET.
TRIBULATIONS MUST
BE OVERCOME.

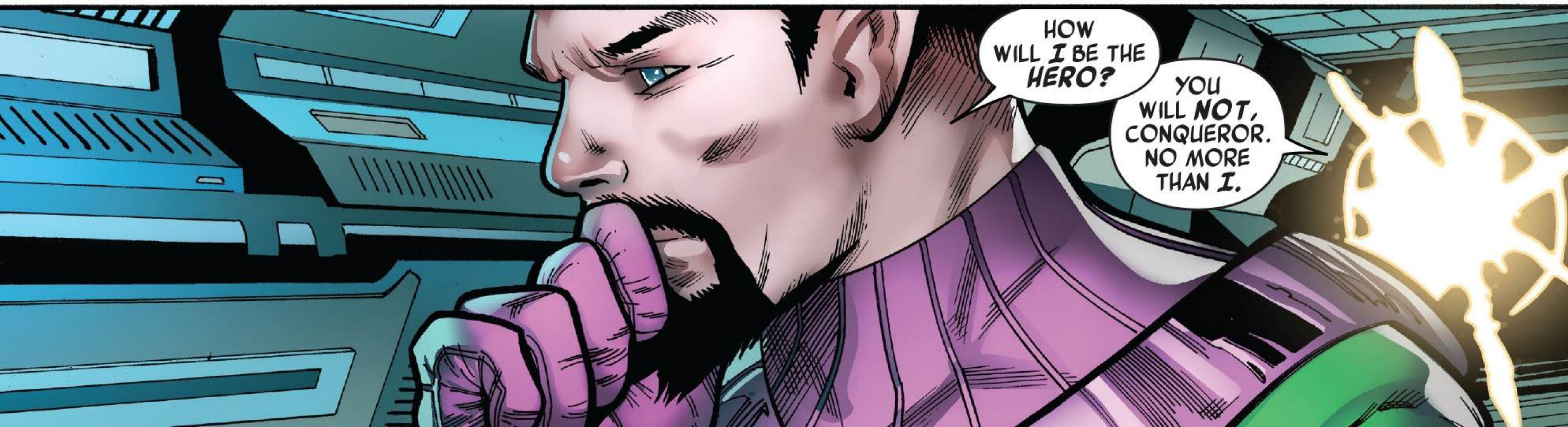
THE MISSING
MOMENT IS THE FIRST
STEP TO THE GRAIL.
THE ULTIMATE PRIZE
FOR THE ULTIMATE
ADVENTURER.



**TRIBULATION
EVENTS** MUST
BE MET BY
HEROES.

THE DEATH
MOON. THE FALL OF
THE IMPOSSIBLE CITY.
THE KING OF MAGIC.
THE CANNIBAL
CULTURE.

AND THE LIKE.
I HAVE ISOLATED
FUTURE EVENTS THAT
MEET THE PARAMETERS
OF THESE TRIBULATION
EVENTS, BUT HOW BEST
TO **SATISFY** THE
REQUIREMENTS?



HOW
WILL I BE THE
HERO?

YOU
WILL **NOT**,
CONQUEROR.
NO MORE
THAN I.



WHAT--?

WHO **DARES**
TRESPASS UPON THE
PRIVACY OF THE
CONQUEROR?

YOU SEEK
THE ULTIMATE PRIZE,
CONQUEROR.

IT IS
COMMENDABLE.

ROOM.
KILL HIM.

ROOM!
ACTIVATE
DEFENSES!

KILL THE
INTRUDER!

I AM
TOO CLEVER
BY HALF FOR YOUR
LITTLE **DEFENSES**,
CONQUEROR.

THE WIND
WHISPERS **MANY**
THINGS INTO **MYRDDIN'S**
EARS. AMONG THEM,
YOUR **SECURITY**
CODES.



RAIMENT!
ACTIVATE AND
ARM ME!

"MYRDDIN,"
YOU CALL
YOURSELF.

I'VE MET
THE REAL MERLIN
AMBROSIOUS.

LET US
SEE HOW YOU
COMPARE.

YOU'VE
FORGOTTEN THE
MOST IMPORTANT THING
ABOUT THE PRIZE,
ANY PRIZE.

ALLOW ME
TO GUESS: OTHERS
DESIRE IT. I HAVE
COMPETITION.

NATURALLY.

THE CONQUEROR HAS
NO COMPETITION.

NO
EQUAL.

OH?
IS THAT
WHY YOU'VE
SEQUESTERED
YOURSELF IN YOUR
STUDY FOR A
YEAR?

IS THAT
WHY YOU ARE
STILL NO CLOSER
TO THE MISSING
MOMENT?

SILENCE!

IS THAT
WHY...

...YOU HAVEN'T
UNDERSTOOD THE
MAIN ASPECT OF THE
MISSING MOMENT? OF
THE TRIBULATION
EVENTS?

YOU WERE
TOLD THE TRUTH,
CONQUEROR.

THE MISSING
MOMENT IS NOT
FOR YOU.

IT IS FOR
HEROES.

HEROES LIKE
MY TWILIGHT
COURT.

THIS IS KANG
THE CONQUEROR. THE
VILLAIN I CREATED YOU
TO DESTROY.

TO
BATTLE, MY
KNIGHTS.

ARTUR,
THE KING.

GALEHAUT,
THE GOD.

MORDRED,
THE WITCH.

BERCILAK,
THE CONSTRUCT.

PARSIFAL,
THE ICON.

BEDIVERE,
THE ENGINEER.

LANCELOT,
THE STAR.





HRRN.

HAVE I
TRAITORS IN
MY MIDST?

HOW COULD MY SECURITY--
TECHNOLOGICAL, SUPER-
HUMAN, ALIEN, MAGICAL--BE
SO WHOLLY COMPROMISED
TO ALLOW NOT ONLY **MYRDDIN**
INTO MY PERSONAL CHAMBERS
BUT AN **ENTIRE CADRE** OF
SUPERHUMANS?

YOU HAVE
RESOURCES BEYOND
MY **IMMEDIATE**
UNDERSTANDING,
MYRDDIN.

MY
FLAGSHIP IS
YOURS.



ENJOY
IT WHILE YOU
CAN.

KANG TO
FLAGSHIP PROSPERO:
SELF-DESTRUCT.

RAIMENT,
EXECUTE IMMEDIATE
EMERGENCY
TIMEJUMP.



TIME FLASHES
BEFORE MY EYES.

THE SHAPE
OF THINGS
TO COME.

BUT NONE
OF THESE ARE
SUFFICIENT FOR
MY PURPOSES.

IF MYRDDIN HAS THE POWER TO STRIKE
AT ME AT THE *HEART* OF MY EMPIRE,
IT STANDS TO REASON THAT HE HAS
THE POWER TO SEND HIS SUPERHUMANS,
HIS *TWILIGHT COURT*, AFTER ME
AS I FLEE THROUGH TIME.

FINE.

IF MYRDDIN BELIEVES
THAT *HE* WILL SEIZE THE
MISSING MOMENT...

...THEN LET **HIM** LEAD
HIS HEROES INTO A
TRIBULATION EVENT.

TRIBULATION EVENT:
FALL OF THE IMPOSSIBLE CITY.

THE CITYSMITH'S
ATTACK ON TORONTO.



THIS IS A POSITION THAT
I AM **UNUSED** TO.

FLEEING.



BUT AS MUCH OF
AN **INDIGNITY** AS IT
MIGHT BE, I FEEL...

...EXHILARATION?





IT HAS BEEN SO LONG
SINCE I'VE TRULY RUN
FOR MY LIFE.

I HAD FORGOTTEN
HOW **ALIVE** IT
MAKES ONE FEEL.

HA!
AS
QUICK AS
THE WIZARD
SAID!

WOW



I'M CERTAIN THAT
BYRON WOULD HAVE
SOMETHING TO SAY
ABOUT **THAT** TOO,
THE **DEGENERATE**.

RAIMENT.
ARM ME.

Z-BEAMS.



HO HO!

IT WILL
TAKE MORE THAN
A LITTLE PISTOL TO
SEAR **MY** SKIN,
CONQUEROR!



I HAD
ASSUMED AS
MUCH. MY HELMET
SCANNED YOU
IMMEDIATELY--AN
ASGARDIAN DNA
SPlice?

THE
GENESMITHS
THAT **BUILT** YOU
DID **ASTOUNDING**
WORK. BUT I
WASN'T TRYING
TO SEAR YOUR
SKIN.

Z-BEAMS
ARE TELEPORT
MARKERS.



WELL PLAYED,
CONQUEROR.

LET US
SEE WHO
IS FASTER:
GALEHAUT
OR--

TELEPORT.



THAT IS
ONE TAKEN
CARE OF.

FOR
NOW.

CONQUEROR:
ALERT--



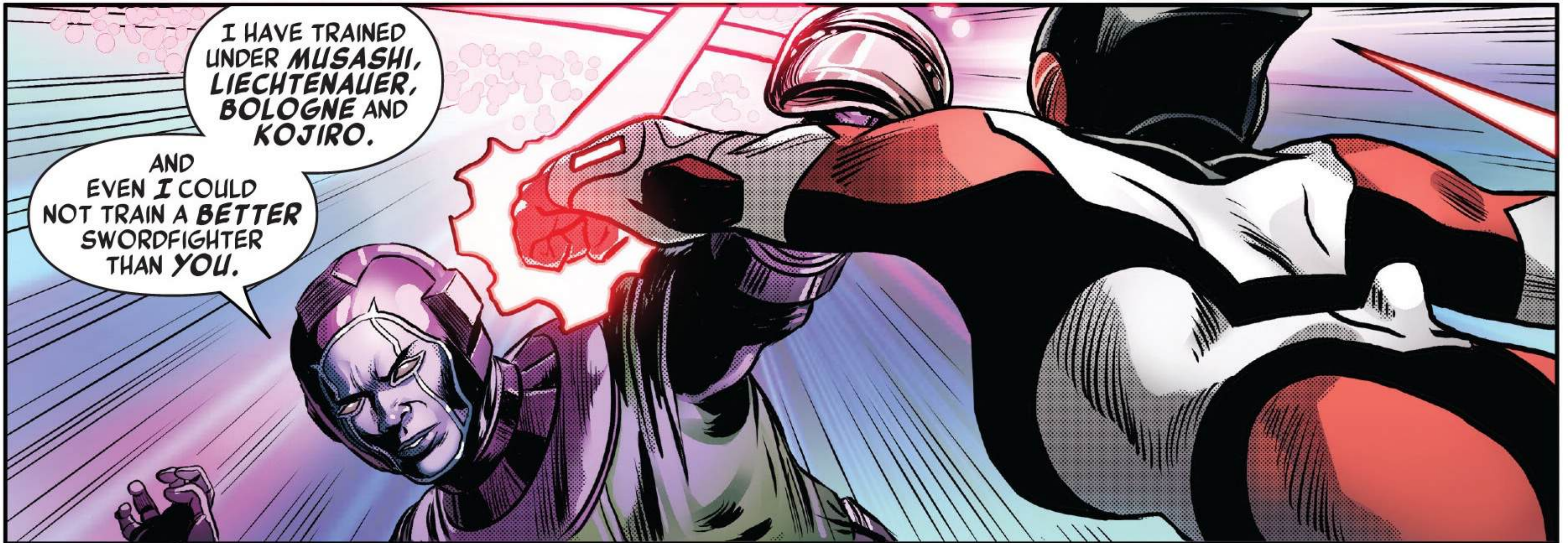


I DON'T
KNOW WHY THE
WIZARD SAID YOU
WERE SO **QUICK**,
CONQUEROR.

YOU FIGHT
LIKE WHAT YOU
ARE: A **SLOW**,
OLD MAN.



AND YOU FIGHT
BRILLIANTLY,
LANCELOT.



I HAVE TRAINED
UNDER **MUSASHI**,
LIECHTENAUER,
BOLOGNE AND
KOJIRO.

AND
EVEN **I** COULD
NOT TRAIN A **BETTER**
SWORDFIGHTER
THAN **YOU**.



BUT I WOULD NEVER
TRAIN ONE TO BE A **HERO**.
BECAUSE ONE CANNOT BE BOTH
A GREAT **HERO** AND A GREAT
SWORDFIGHTER.

A **TRULY** GREAT
SWORDFIGHTER MUST
BE **RUTHLESS**.

RAIMENT:
TELEPORT IN SIX
FRAGMENTATION
BOMBS. TARGET
CIVILIANS.



NO!



GO AND
SAVE THEM,
HERO.

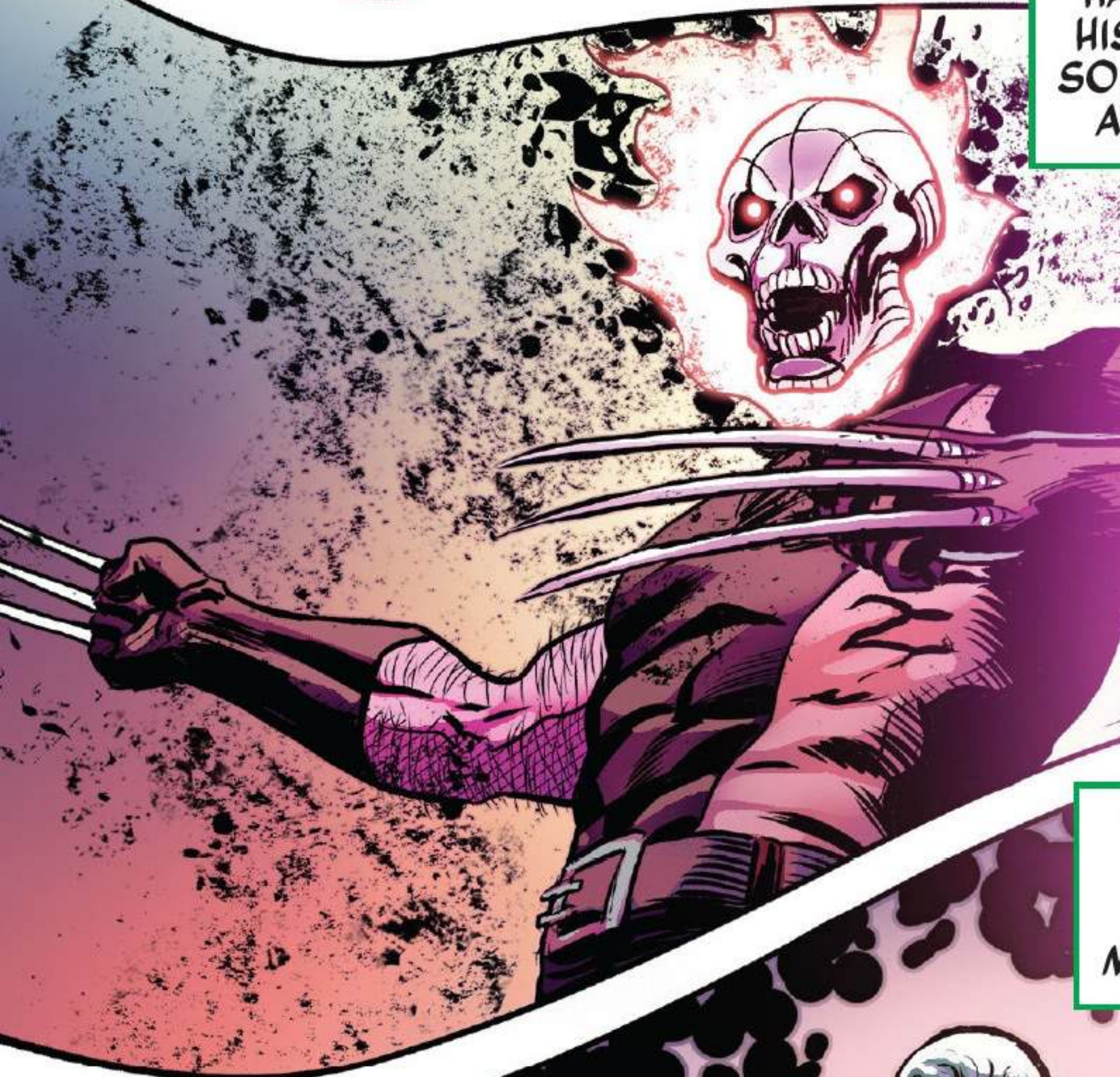
EXECUTE
TIMEJUMP.



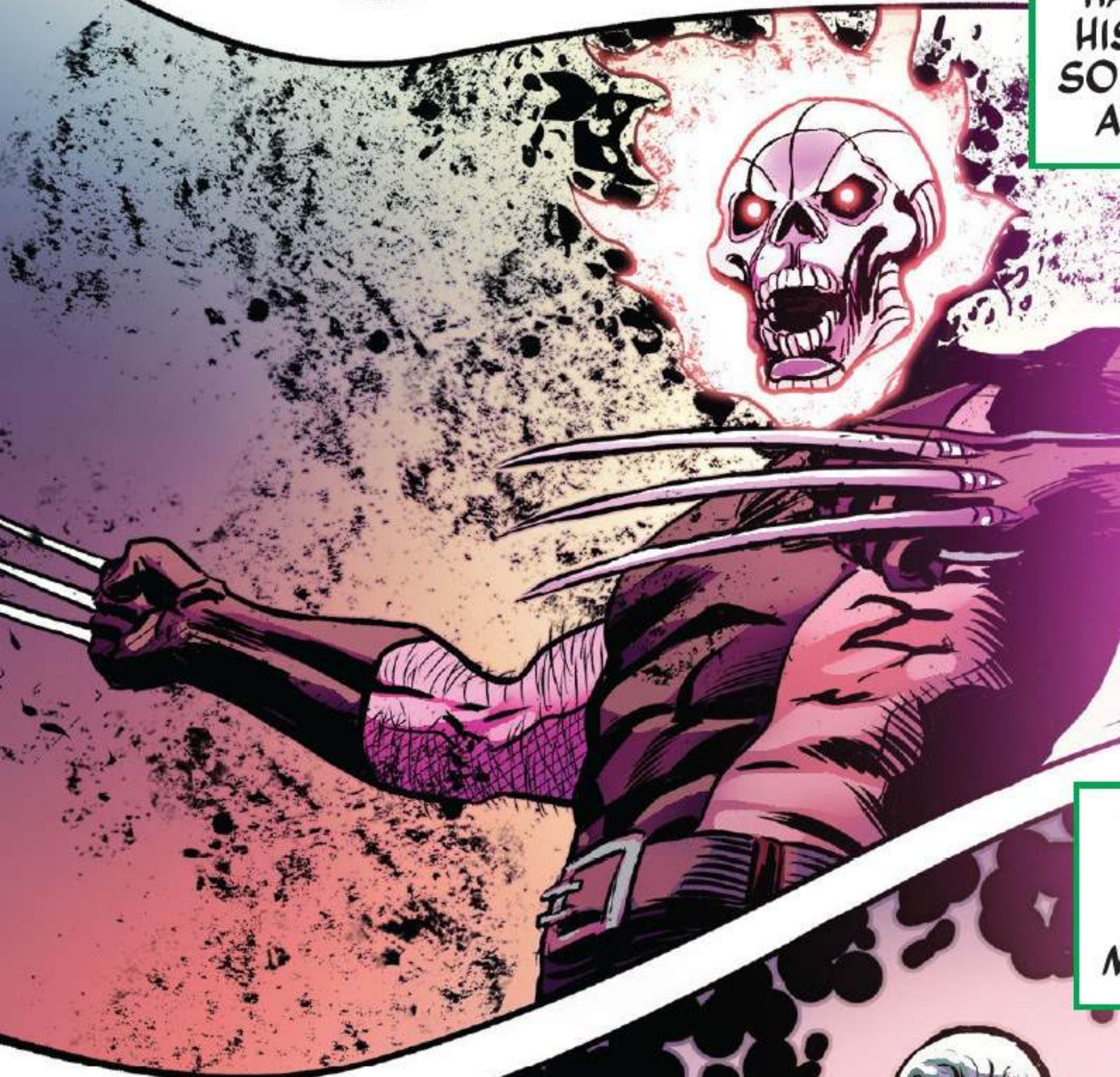
SO THEY
ARE HEROES
AFTER ALL.



BUILT TO BE,
GENESMITHED FROM THE
EMBRYO, ARMED WITH
HYPERTECHNOLOGICAL
WEAPONRY.



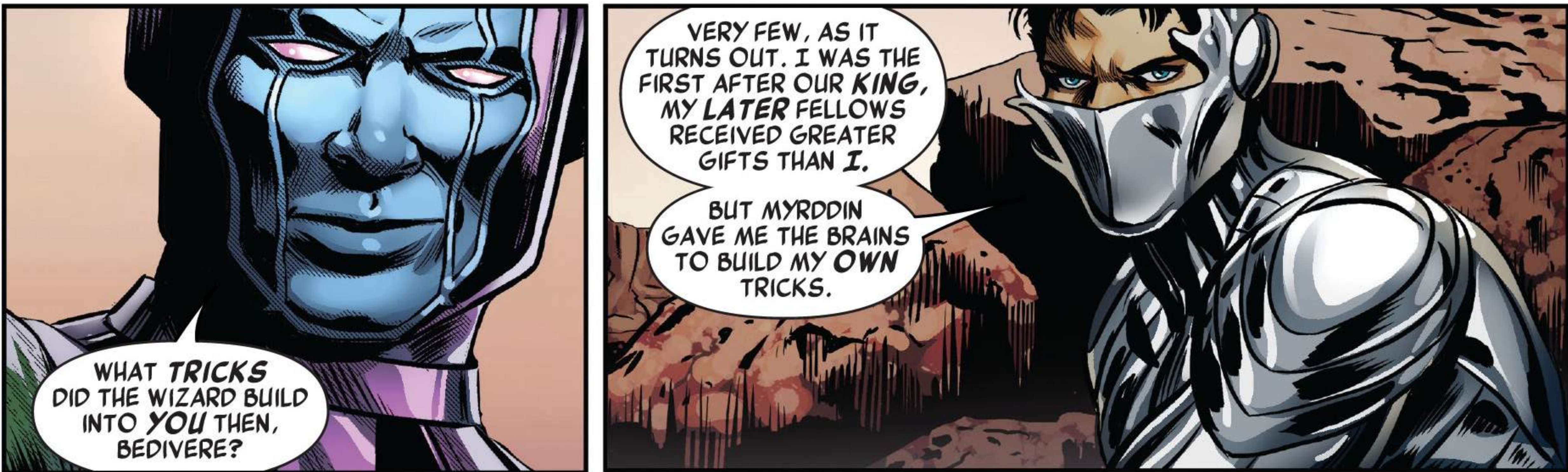
WHO *IS* THIS MYRDDIN TO
HAVE SUCH RESOURCES AT
HIS DISPOSAL? HOW COULD
SOMEONE HAVE SUCH POWER
AND ESCAPE *MY* NOTICE?

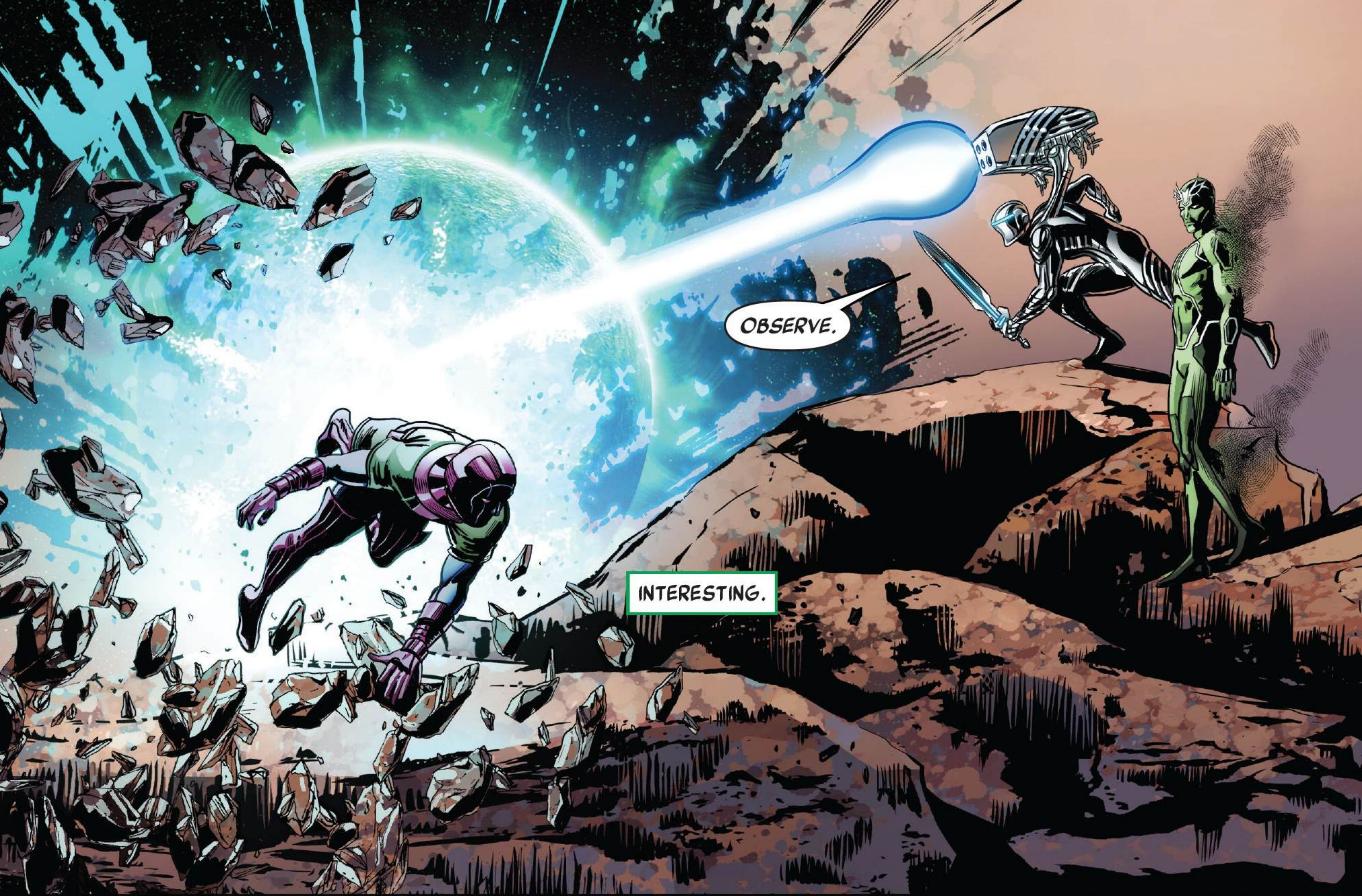


HE HAS PLACED HIMSELF
IN COMPETITION WITH
ME FOR THE MISSING
MOMENT, FOR THE *PRIZE*.



IT GOES WITHOUT
SAYING, OF COURSE,
THAT HE MUST *DIE*.





OBSERVE.

INTERESTING.



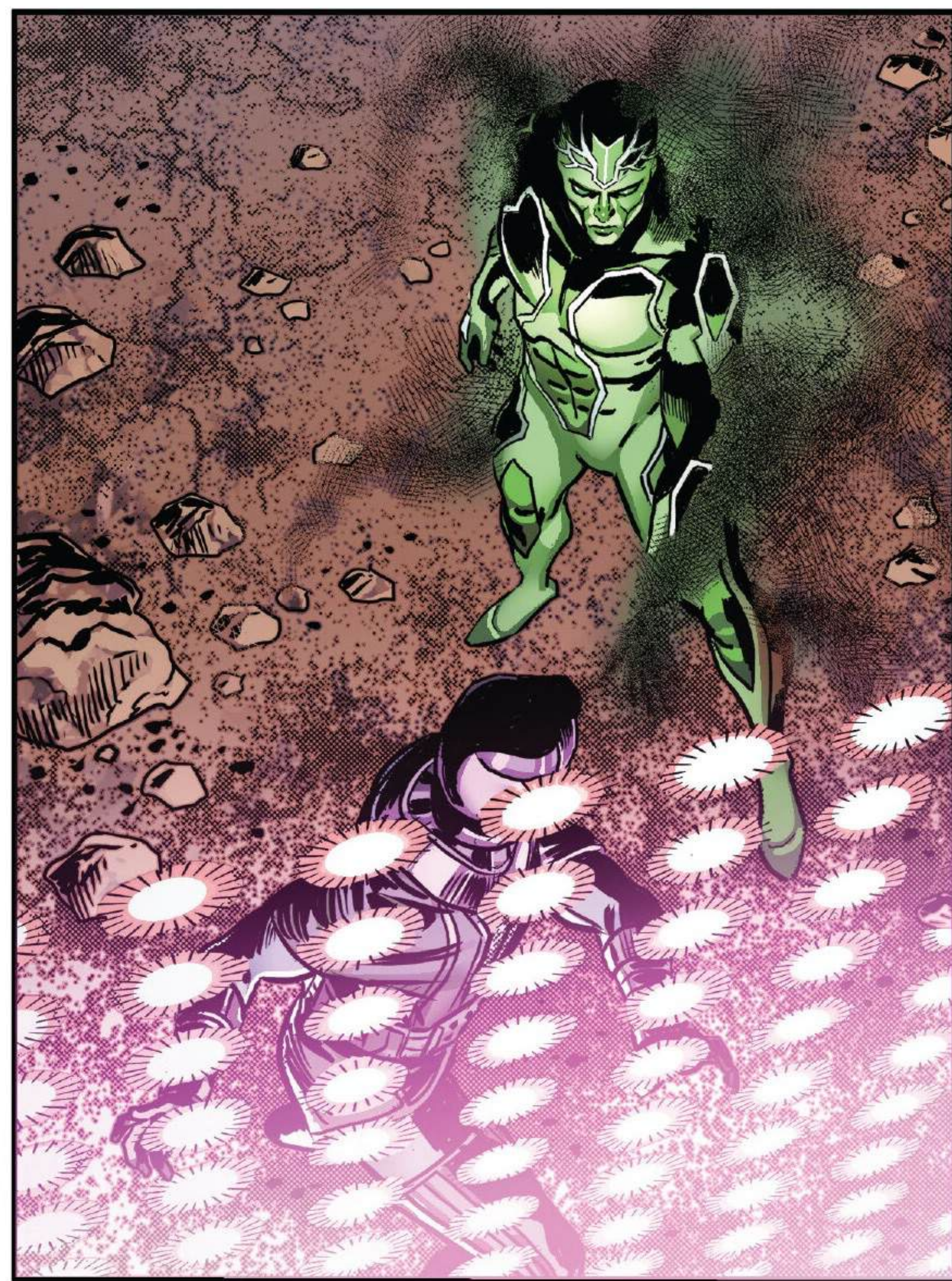
TECHNARCHY-DERIVED ARMOR.



AND THE OTHER ONE, AN OBVIOUS SYNTHETIC--

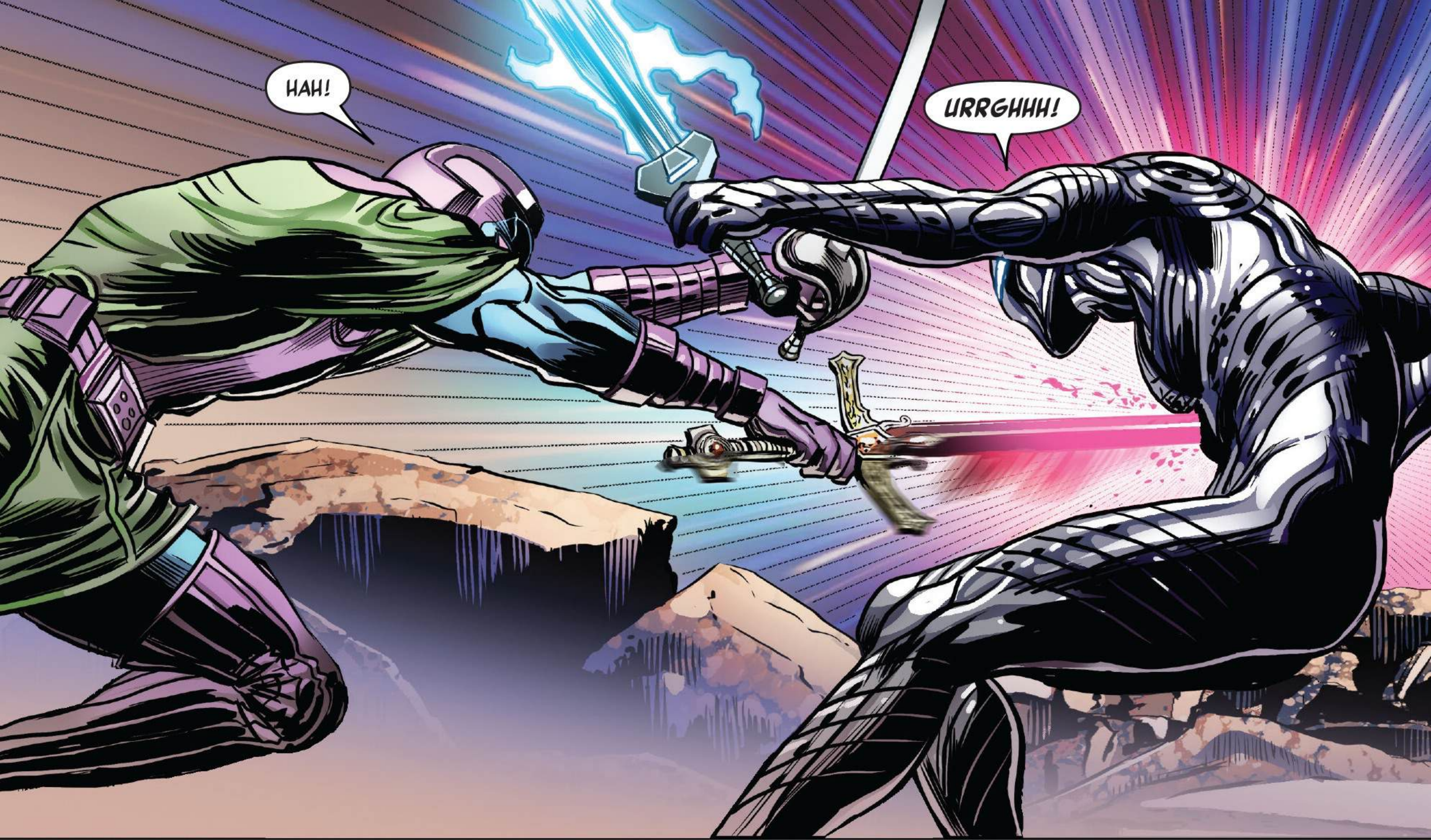
WAIT--

--WHERE DID IT GO?









HAH!

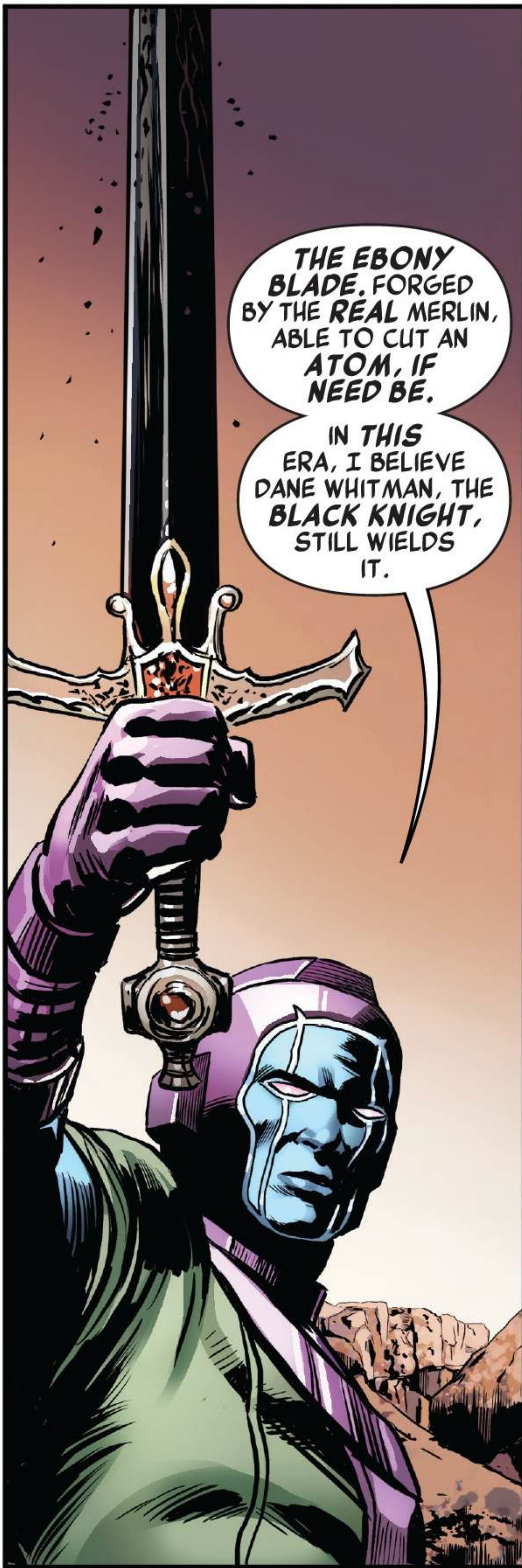
URRGHHH!



YOU--

YOU HAVE
SURPRISES LEFT IN
YOU **AFTER ALL**,
CONQUEROR.

I HAD
HOPED TO **NEVER**
SEE SUCH A BLADE
AS THAT IN MY
LIFE.



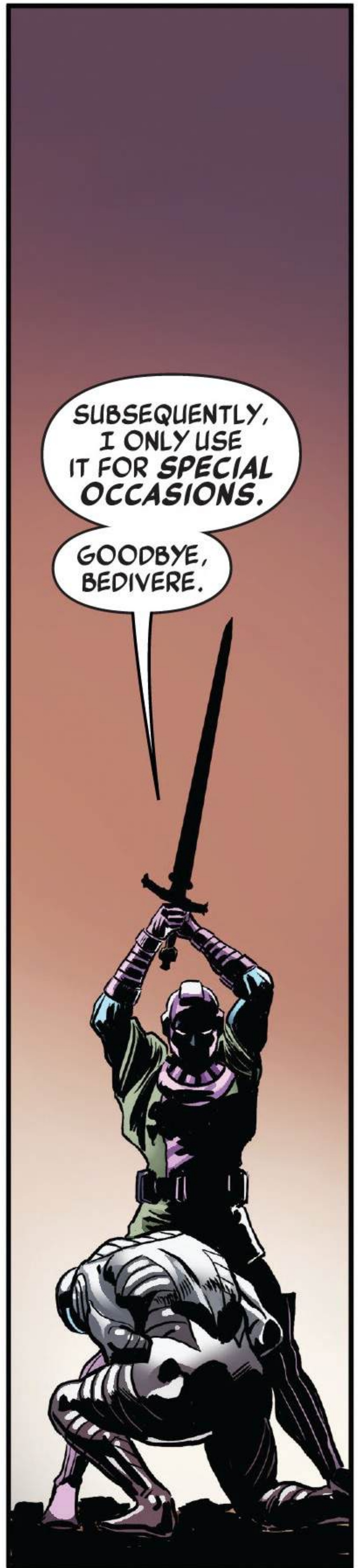
**THE EBONY
BLADE**, FORGED
BY THE **REAL MERLIN**,
ABLE TO CUT AN
ATOM, IF
NEED BE.

IN **THIS**
ERA, I BELIEVE
DANE WHITMAN, THE
BLACK KNIGHT,
STILL WIELDS
IT.



I FOUND
IT A **THOUSAND
YEARS** INTO THE
FUTURE ON A **DEAD
PLANET**.

ITS
UNKNOWN BEARER
HAD BEEN DRIVEN **MAD**,
HAD **BUTCHERED EVERY
LIVING PERSON** ON THAT
PLANET, BEFORE DYING
THEMSELVES.



SUBSEQUENTLY,
I ONLY USE
IT FOR **SPECIAL
OCCASIONS**.

GOODBYE,
BEDIVERE.





RAIMENT!
REPORT!

SYS-SYSTEM INTEGRITY AT
34%, CONQUEROR-OR-OR-OR.

THE NANOTECH ASSAULT
BY [ENEMY DESIGNATE:
BERCILAK] IS EXTREMELY
ADVANCED-D-D.

IS THAT HOW
THEY MADE ME
TIMEJUMP? HAS
BERCILAK CONTROL
OVER MY OWN
ARMOR?

UNKNOWN.

DAMN IT.

YES.
BERCILAK
SENT YOU TO ME,
CONQUEROR.

7 7 7

THEY SEE THINGS
IN A WAY THE REST OF THE
ROUNDTABLE DOES NOT. THEIR
ULTRA-CONSCIOUSNESS TUNNELS
THROUGH TIME AND PROBABILITY
IN A WAY THE REST OF US
BARELY UNDERSTAND.

MORDRED,
I PRESUME.

YES.
MORDRED
THE WITCH-KNIGHT.

KNIGHT of PENTACLES

I'VE
VANQUISHED YOUR
FELLOWS.

COME,
THEN, KNIGHT.
MATCH YOURSELF
AGAINST THE
CONQUEROR.

NO,
I THINK
NOT.

I AM
NOT THE KING,
NOR THE ICON, THE
ENGINEER, THE GOD,
THE STAR OR THE
CONSTRUCT.

THE MAGICIAN.

I AM
DESIGNATED AS
THE WITCH. WHICH
MEANS I AM THE
CHAOS AGENT OF
THE TWILIGHT
COURT.

...
WILL
YOU **BETRAY**
MYRDDIN?

PERHAPS.

MORDRED WAS
ALWAYS THE **JUDAS**
OF CAMELOT. CAN I ACT
ANY DIFFERENTLY THAN THE
STORY I WAS CREATED
TO **EMBODY**?

BUT I
LOVE MY KING
ARTUR, AS I LOVE
ALL MY FELLOW
KNIGHTS.

MYRDDIN SEEKS
TO **CONTROL** US,
AS HE SHOULD. HE
CREATED US TO BE
HIS TOOLS. HIS
HEROES.

I CAN
EITHER **FOLLOW**
MYRDDIN'S ORDERS
OR **BETRAY**
HIM.

JUDAS
BETRAYED THE CHRIST,
BUT **WITHOUT** HIM, THERE
WOULD HAVE BEEN NO
HARROWING, NO
RESURRECTION.

BUT THE
FIRST MORDRED
BETRAYED **HIS** ARTHUR,
AND SO DID THE AGE
OF CAMELOT
END.

AND SO
I ASKED BERTILAK
TO SEND YOU TO **ME**,
IN THIS **BETWEEN-TIME**,
BEFORE YOU KILLED
BEDIVERE.

I AM
UNCERTAIN IF I **MUST**
BETRAY LIKE JUDAS FOR
THE GREATER GOOD, OR IF I
MUSTN'T, LIKE MY **NAME-**
SAKE, TO PRESERVE ALL
THAT I LOVE.



DO
YOU THINK
ME A VILLAIN,
MORDRED?



I KNOW
YOU FOR A VILLAIN,
KANG.



THEN
KNOW THIS: WHAT
I SEEK, I SEEK
BECAUSE I AM
A VILLAIN.

MYRDDIN
SEEKS IT FOR
THE SAME
REASON.



HM.



I WILL
LET MY KING
DECIDE.



TRIBULATION EVENT:
THE CANNIBAL CULTURE.

THE BLUE AREA
OF THE MOON.

CONQUEROR, I AM
SORRY-RY-RY.

SYSTEM INTEGRITY AT
ZERO PERCENTTTT--

ARTUR!
MY KING!
I BRING THE
CONQUEROR TO
BE JUDGED!

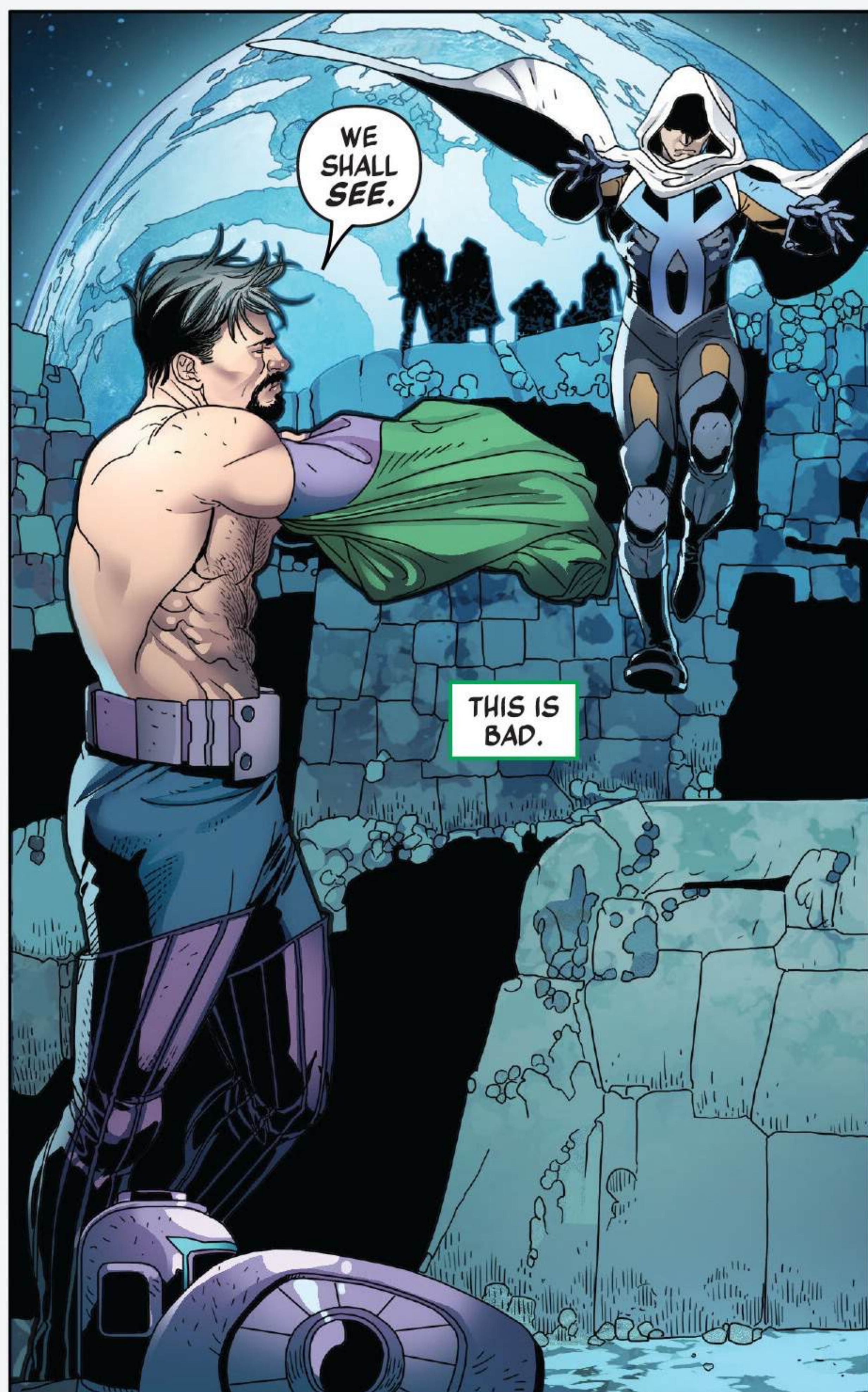
WELL MET,
MORDRED.

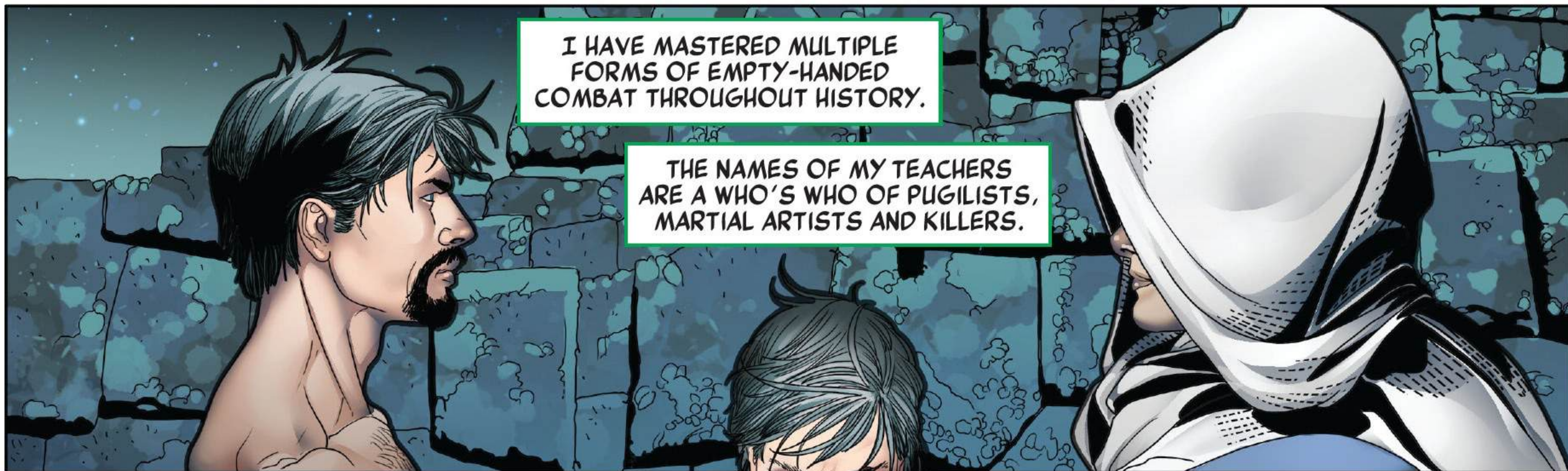
BUT
JUDGMENT?
HAS NOT KANG BEEN
ALREADY JUDGED
GUILTY OF MILLIONS
OF DEATHS?

ARE WE
KNIGHTS OR
EXECUTIONERS,
MY KING?

IF WE ARE
TO **FINISH** THE
CONQUEROR, SHOULD
HE NOT BE GIVEN THE
COURTESY OF
TRIAL?

OR HAVE
WE BECOME NOTHING
MORE THAN MYRDDIN'S
HEADSMEN?





I HAVE MASTERED MULTIPLE FORMS OF EMPTY-HANDED COMBAT THROUGHOUT HISTORY.

THE NAMES OF MY TEACHERS ARE A WHO'S WHO OF PUGILISTS, MARTIAL ARTISTS AND KILLERS.



BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS THAT MYRDDIN BUILT INTO THIS ONE.

PARSIFAL. THE PERFECT KNIGHT.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BEGIN, MY LORD CONQUEROR?

OR SHALL I?



GRRRRR...



HAI!

HO! VERY GOOD, MY LORD.

HAHH!

AND ANOTHER! WELL STRUCK, MY LORD.



YOU MOCK ME, PARSIFAL?



NEVER, MY LORD. MERELY BEING COURTEOUS.

YOU FIGHT EXCELLENTLY.

BUT **THIS** IS MY BLESSING: SO LONG AS MY CAUSE BE **JUST**, VICTORY WILL BE MINE.

FATE WILL IT.



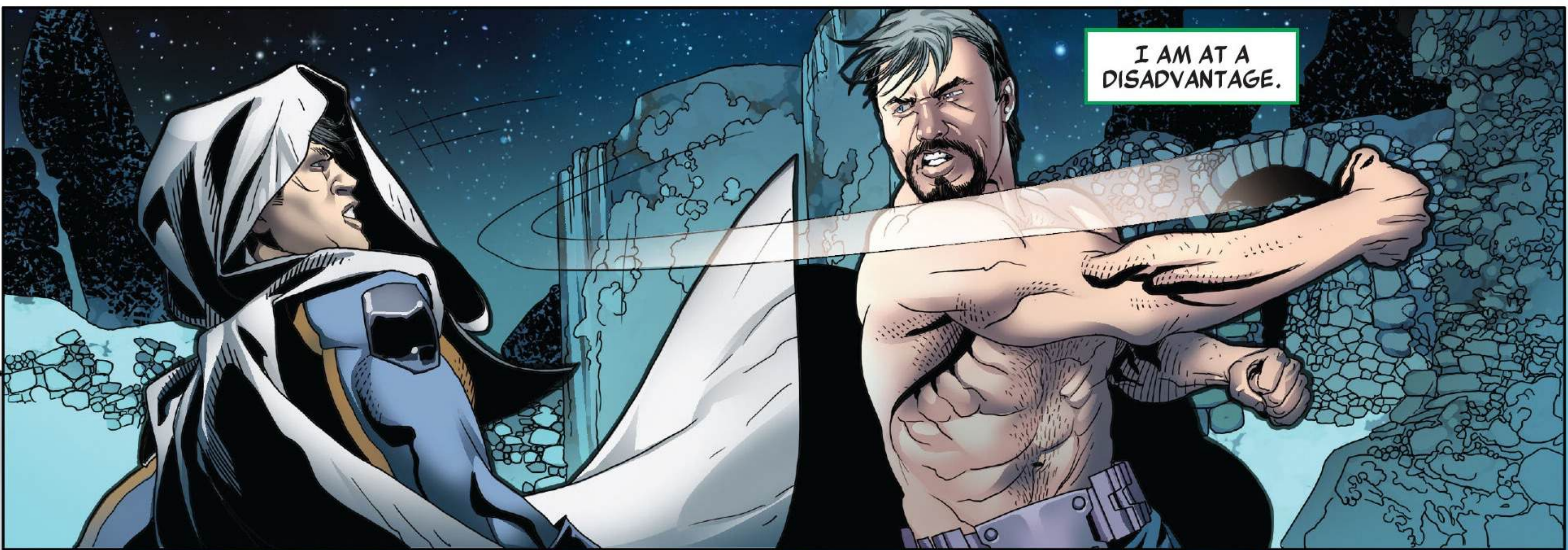
PROBABILITY MANIPULATION?

REALITY WARPING?

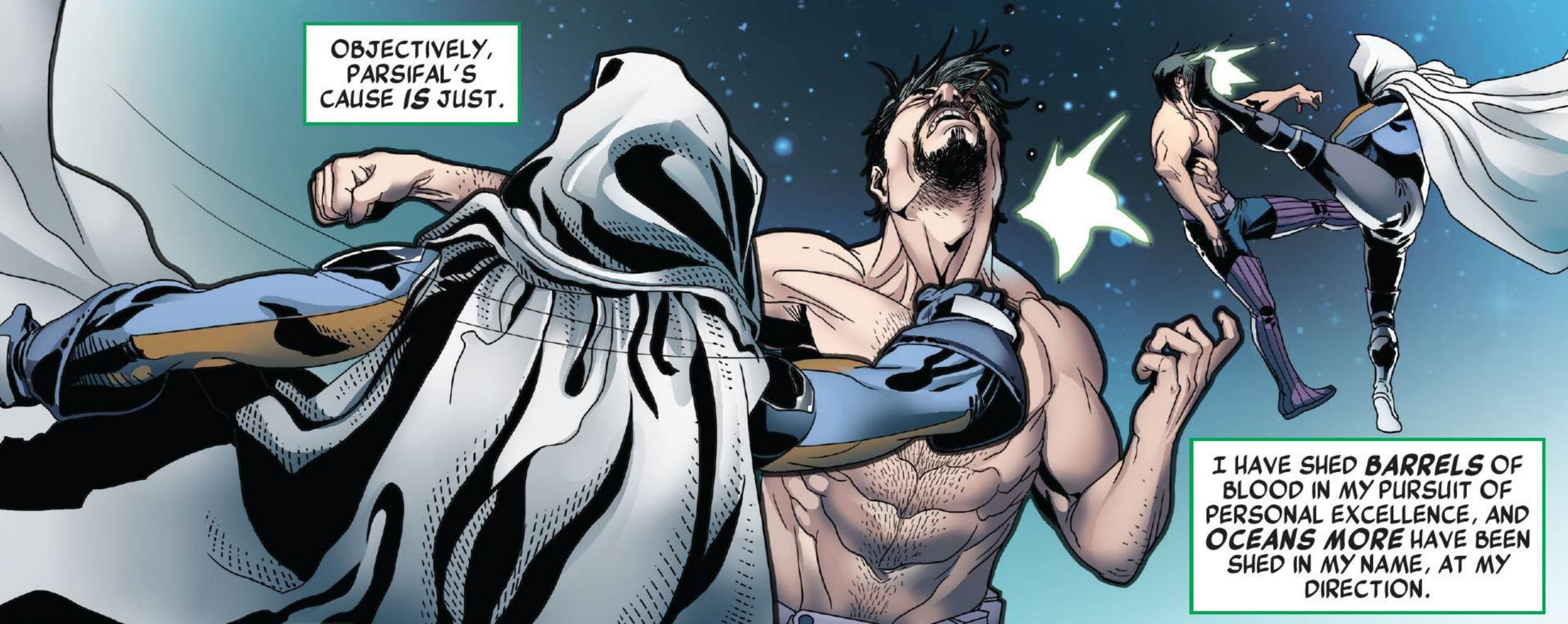
SOME SORT OF X-GENE CHIMERIC SPLICE?

HRNN.

COME ALONG, THEN, PARSIFAL. LET US SEE WHAT HANDS FATE DEALS THE **PAIR** OF US.



I AM AT A DISADVANTAGE.



OBJECTIVELY, PARSIFAL'S CAUSE **IS** JUST.

I HAVE SHED **BARRELS** OF BLOOD IN MY PURSUIT OF PERSONAL EXCELLENCE, AND **OCEANS MORE** HAVE BEEN SHED IN MY NAME, AT MY DIRECTION.



I HAVE LONG AGO PLACED MY OWN EXALTATION OVER ANY ORDINARY, **WEAK** SENSE OF **JUSTICE**.



BUT I AM THE **CONQUEROR**.
AND **EVER** HAVE I BEEN ABLE
TO SEIZE VICTORY FROM THE
JAWS OF **DEFEAT**.

TELL ME,
PARSIFAL.

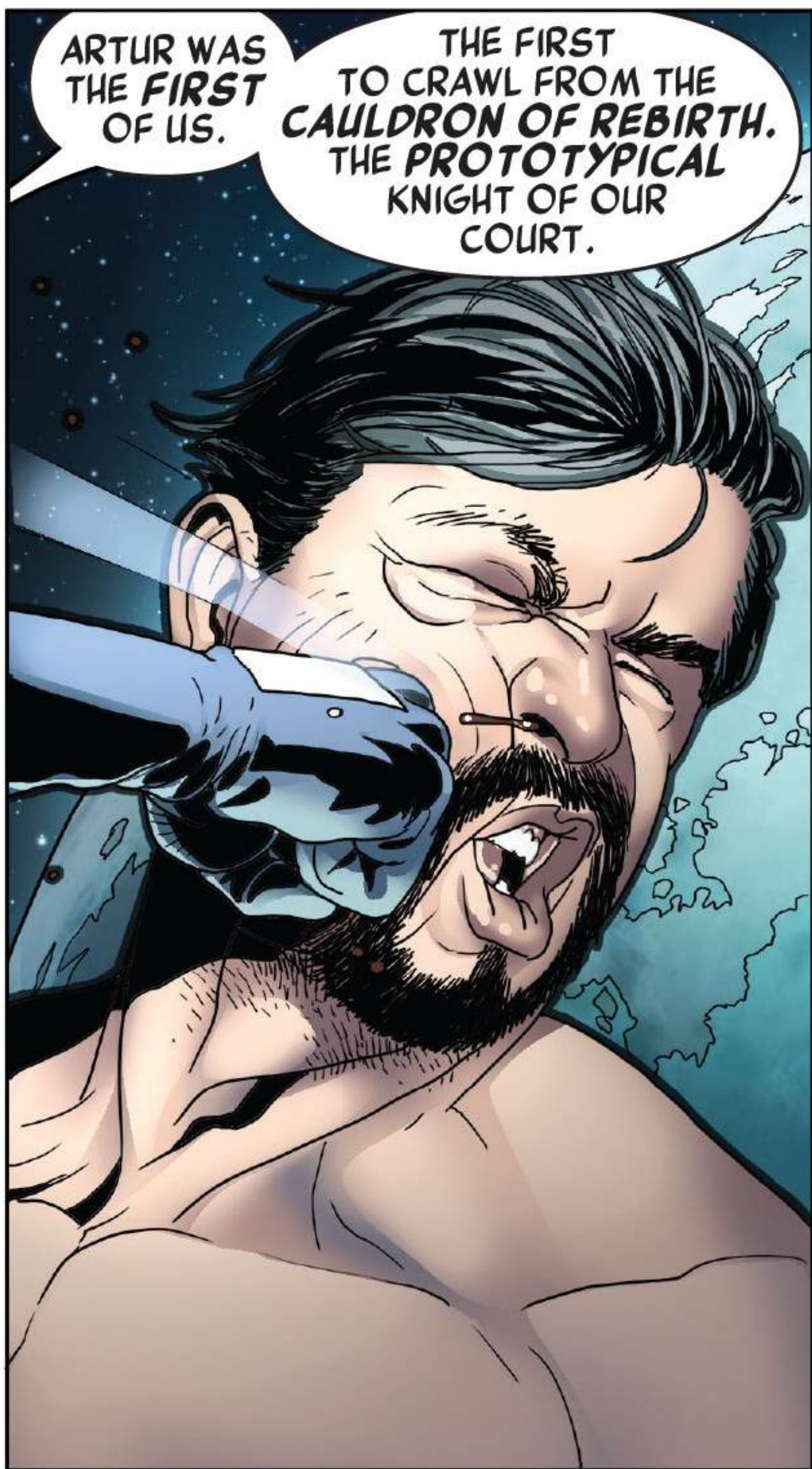
WHY
DOES YOUR
"NOBLE KING"
NOT MEET ME HERE
ON THE FIELD OF
JUDGMENT?



IT WOULD BE AN
UNJUST COMPETITION, MY
LORD CONQUEROR.



"HE WEARS THE **ARMOR OF
CHTHON**, AN INSTRUMENT
OF GREAT MIGHT."



ARTUR WAS
THE **FIRST**
OF US.

THE FIRST
TO CRAWL FROM THE
CAULDRON OF REBIRTH.
THE **PROTOTYPICAL**
KNIGHT OF OUR
COURT.

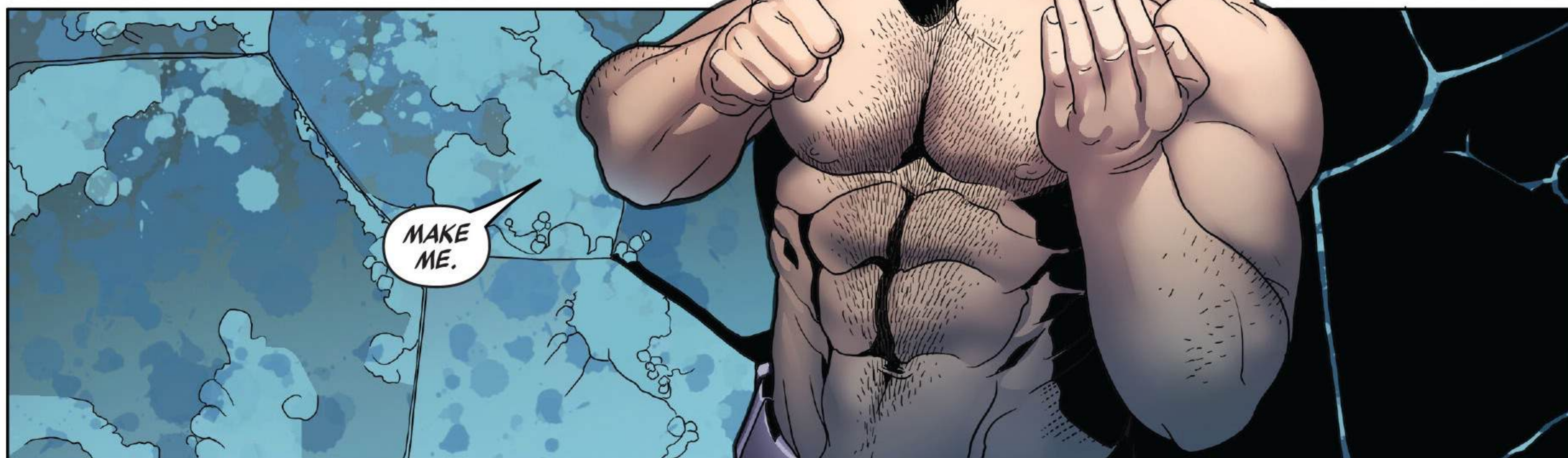
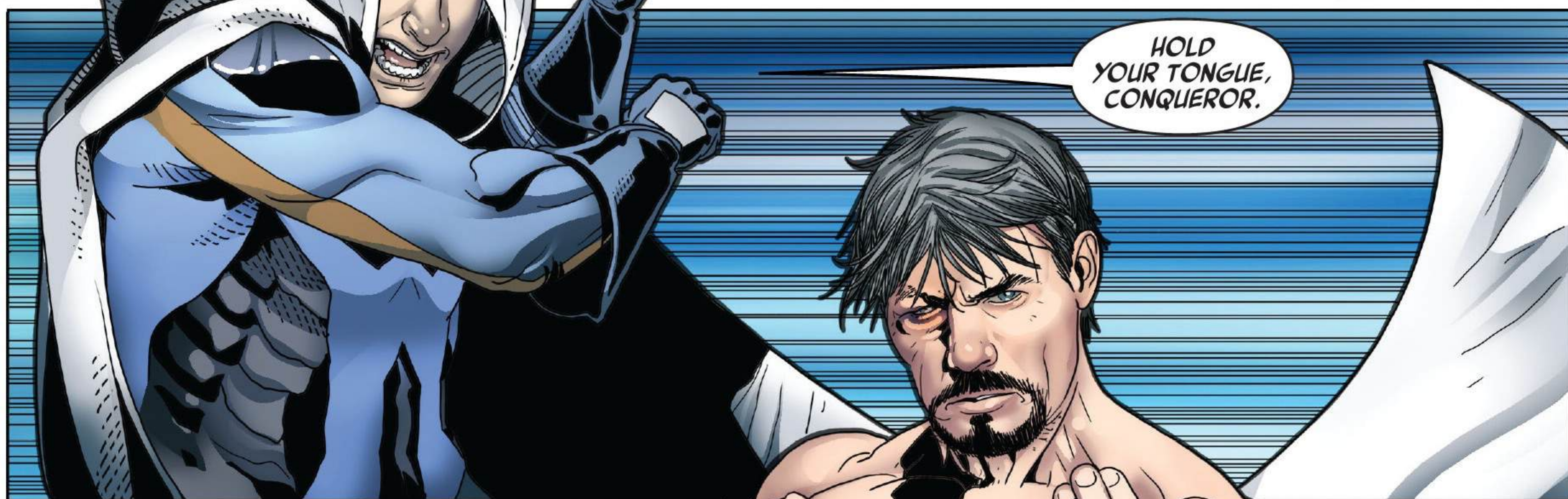
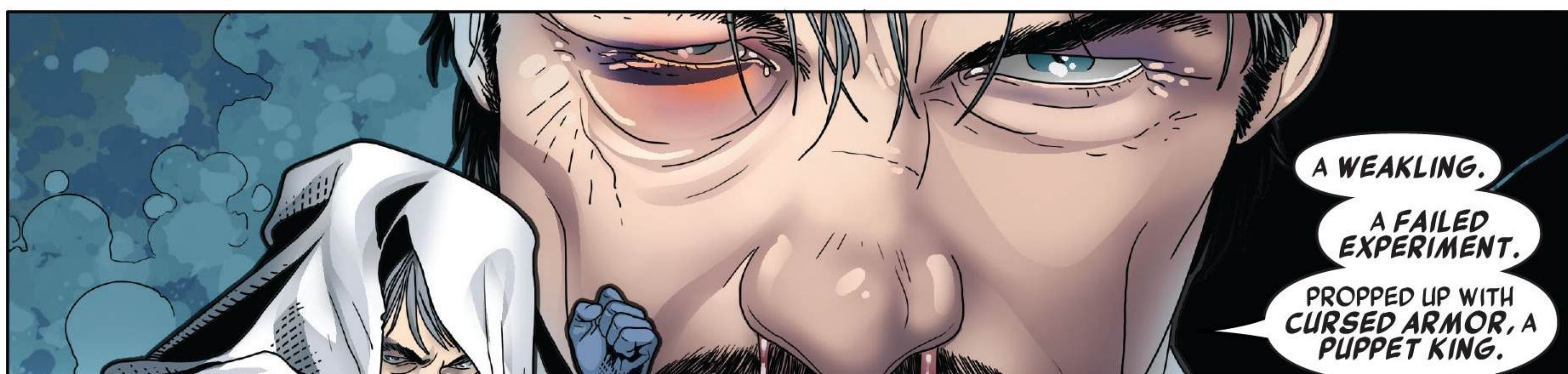
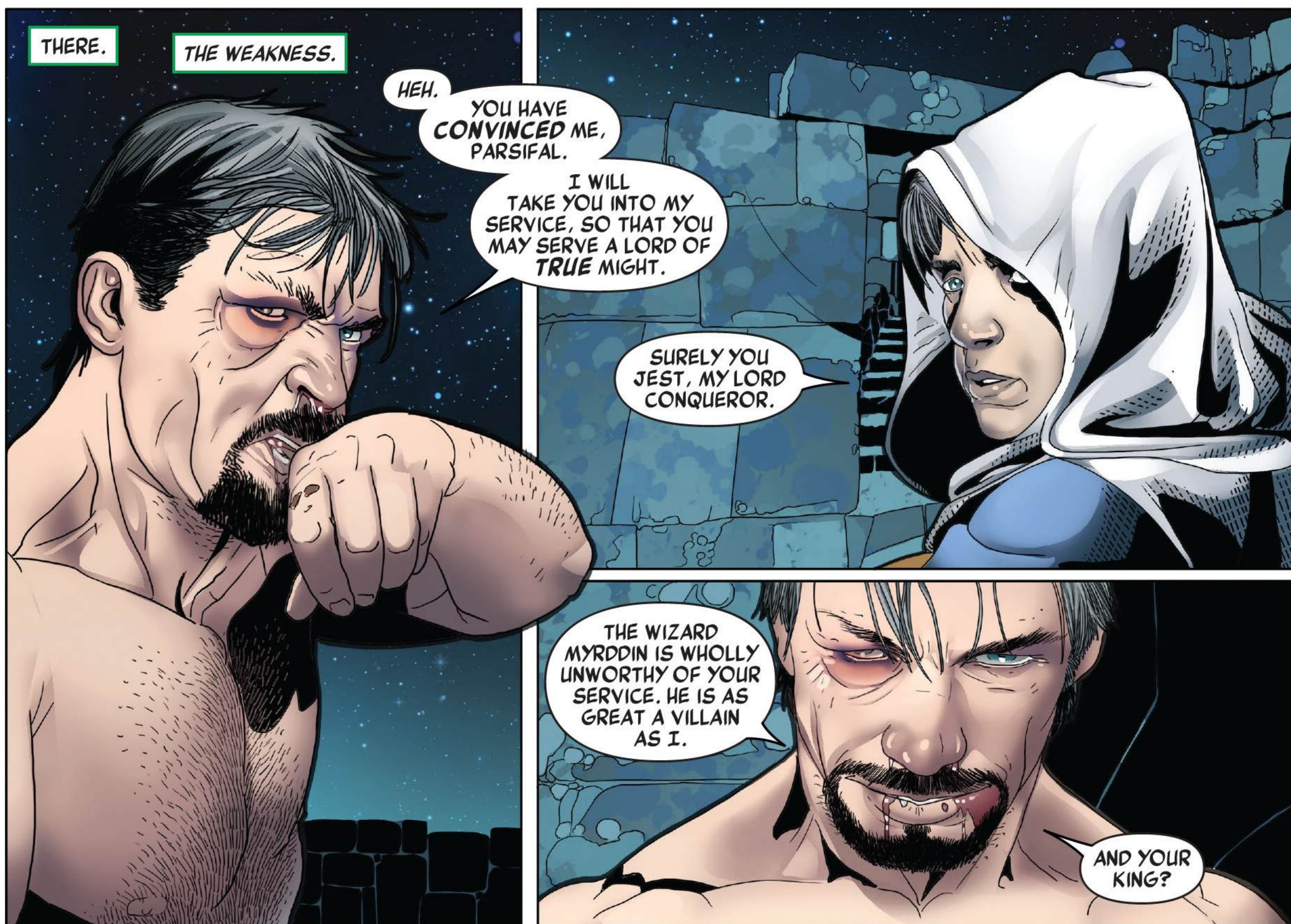


BUT HE WAS BORN
FLAWED. HIS BODY WAS
WEAK, **FRAIL**. MYRDDIN'S
GENESMITHING WAS AS
YET **UNTESTED**.

BUT HIS
SPIRIT!



ARTUR'S **NOBLE HEART** WAS
AND IS GREATER THAN **ANY** OF
US. WHICH IS WHY HE IS OUR **KING**.
AND WHICH IS WHY HE CAN BEAR THE
CURSED ARMOR THAT WOULD
CORRUPT A **LESSER MAN**
IMMEDIATELY.





I'LL
CLOSE
THAT LYING
MOUTH.

MASTERING PAIN
IS THE FIRST STEP
TO GREATNESS.

YOU'VE
SPOKEN ENOUGH
FOR A LIFETIME,
CONQUEROR.

NOT JUST
THE PAIN OF A
HURT BODY.



BUT THE PAIN OF
HURT PRIDE.

WHAT
IS HE---?
NO.

PARSIFAL!
STOP!



BECAUSE THE MOMENT ONE FIGHTS
TO ASSUAGE HURT *PRIDE*, RATHER THAN
TO BRING A VILLAIN TO *JUSTICE*...

RAAAGH!

...IS THE MOMENT
WHEN ONE'S CAUSE IS
NO LONGER JUST.

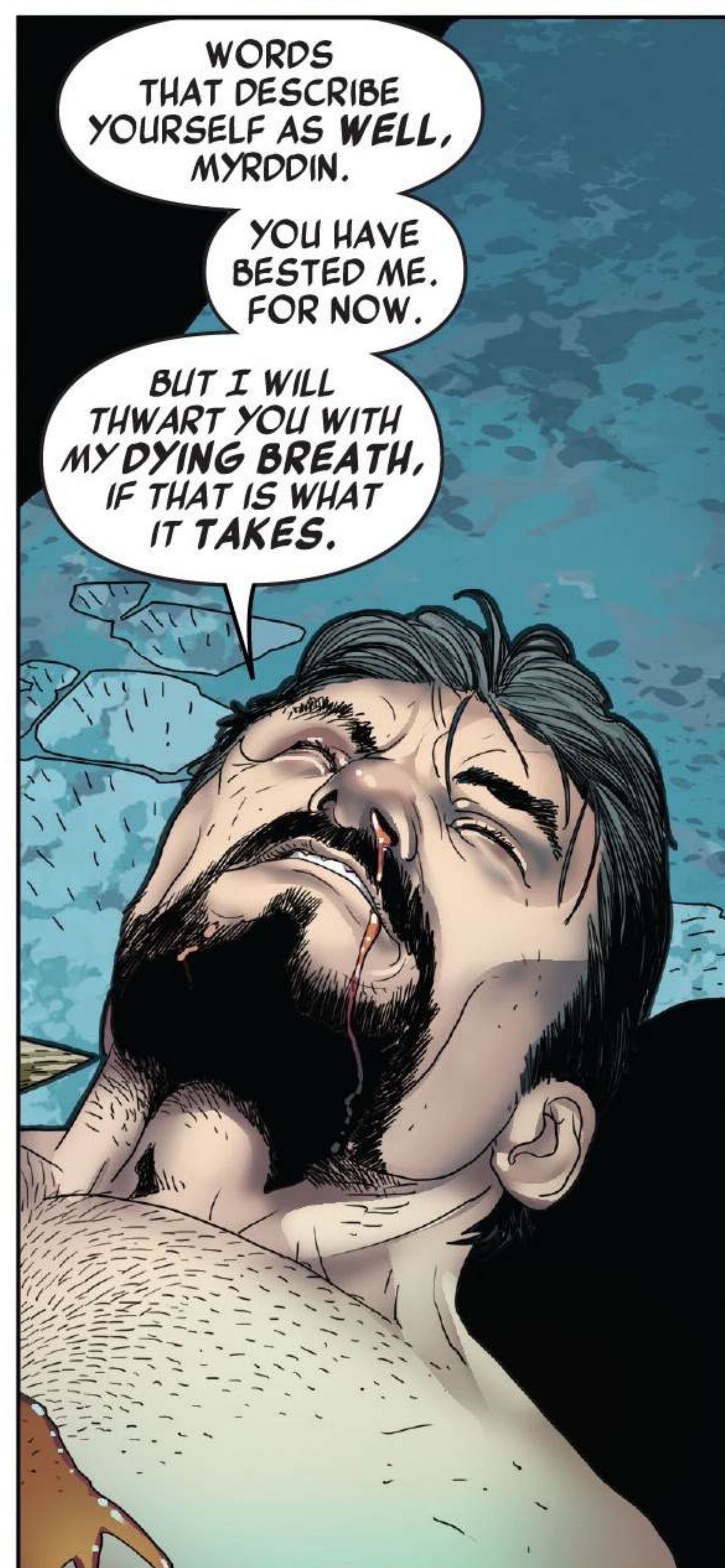






RAAAACHHH!

IT WOULD
APPEAR THAT THERE
ARE JUST SOME THINGS
I MUST DO FOR
MYSELF.



NOWHEN,
NOWHERE.



AN ESCAPE TO
NULL-TIME.

AN INSTRUMENT OF *LAST
RESORT*, PARTITIONED FROM
MY ARMOR'S MAIN SYSTEMS,
UNTOUCHED BY BERCILAK'S
NANOMACHINE ATTACK.

I'VE BEEN
MORTALLY
WOUNDED.

IMPLANTED FAIL-SAFES
ARE DOING THEIR BEST TO
KNIT MY BATTERED BODY
BACK TOGETHER, BUT THEY
CAN ONLY DO SO MUCH.



MYRDDIN AND HIS POOR,
MISGUIDED CREATURES DID
WHAT NO ONE ELSE COULD:

THEY MAY HAVE
KILLED ME.



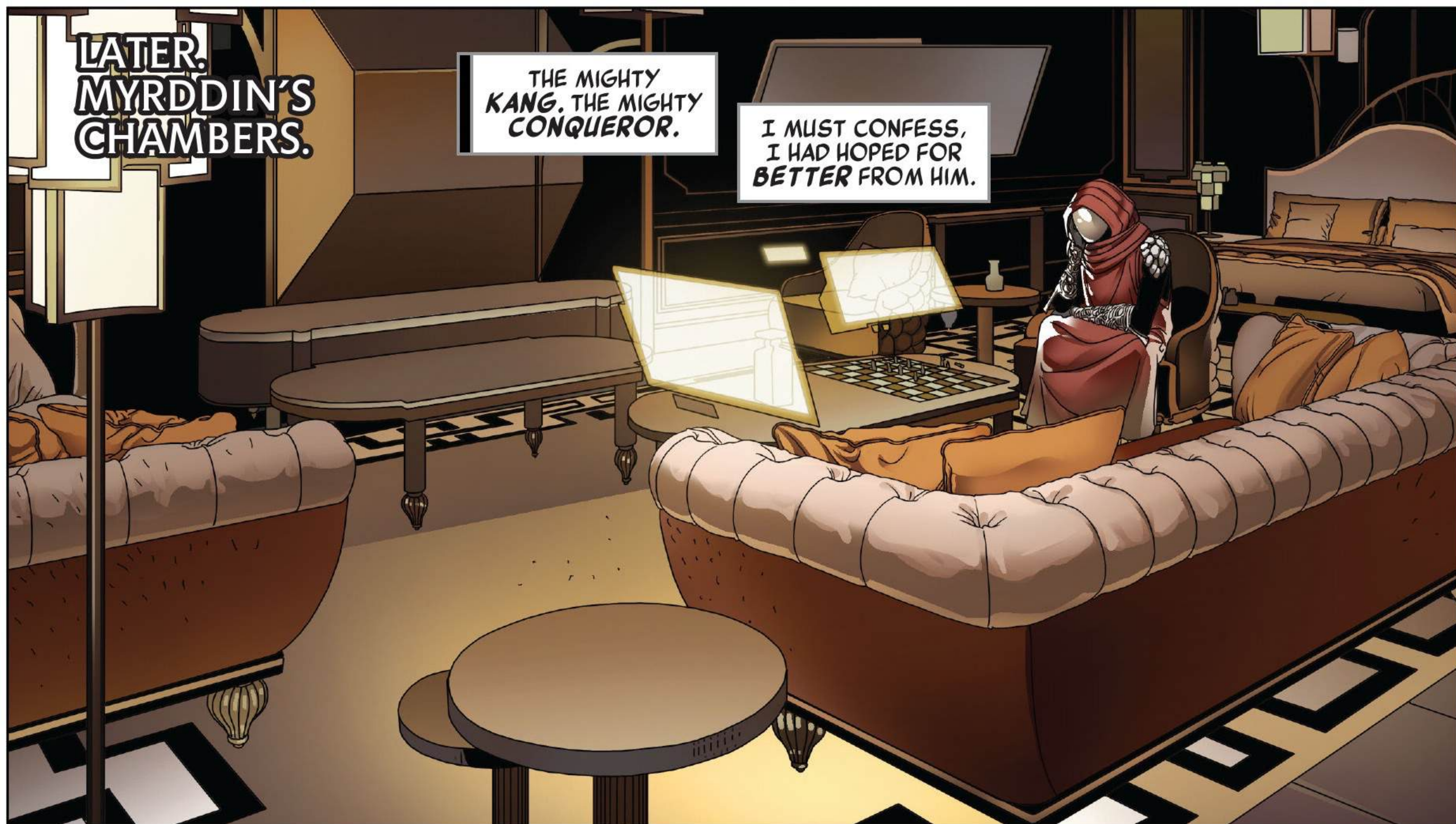
BUT I HAVE
YET ONE MORE
TRICK.

IF I'M TO
THWART
MYRDDIN--



--EVEN FROM
BEYOND THE
GRAVE...

...THEN I WILL
REQUIRE HEROES
OF MY OWN.



LATER.
MYRDDIN'S
CHAMBERS.

THE MIGHTY
KANG, THE MIGHTY
CONQUEROR.

I MUST CONFESS,
I HAD HOPED FOR
BETTER FROM HIM.



MY VICTORY COULD BE
NOTHING OTHER THAN
ASSURED. BUT STILL,
I HAD **HOPE**.



I WONDER WHAT HE
WOULD HAVE SAID, HAD
HE REALIZED WHO HIS
MYSTERIOUS NEW
RIVAL REALLY WAS.

IN TIME, I WILL PUT
ASIDE THIS **MASK**, MY
WIZARD'S MANTLE.



ONCE **ALL** OF THE
PIECES ON THE
BOARD HAVE BEEN
TAKEN AWAY...

...AND **I** AM ALL
THAT REMAINS.



EVERYONE HAS
THEIR OWN REASONS
FOR DOING THIS.

I CAN ONLY
GUESS AT SOME
OF THEM.

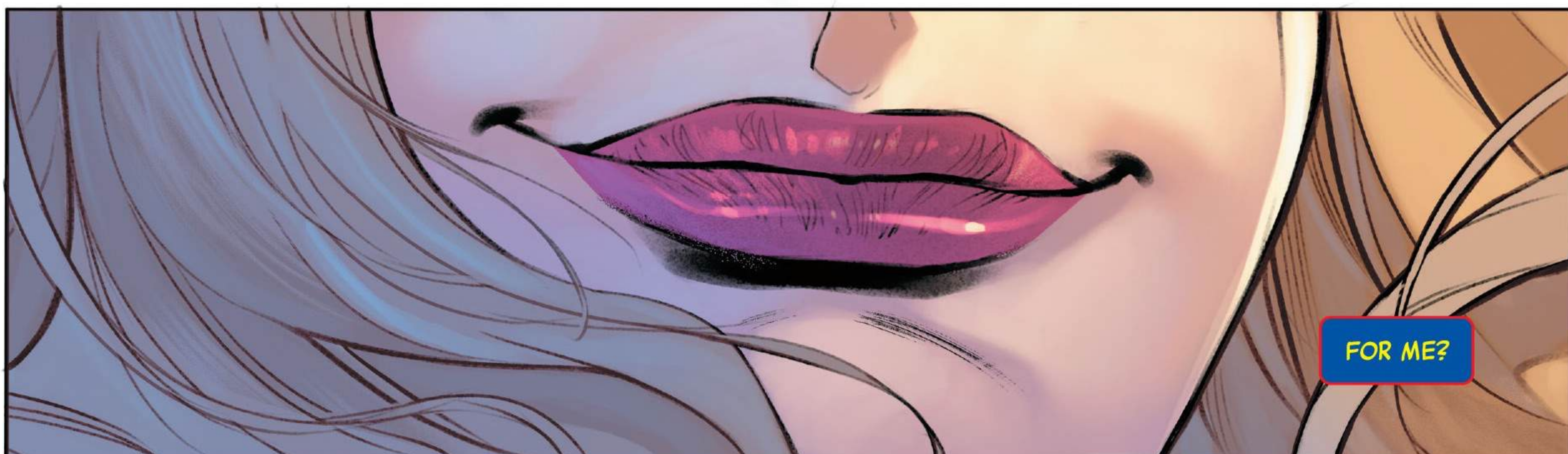


TONY'S PAST HAUNTS
HIM ALMOST AS MUCH
AS HIS FUTURE DOES.

HE WANTS TO KNOW
THAT HIS IMPACT ON
THE WORLD IS A NET
POSITIVE, AND WORKS
EVERY DAY TO **PUSH** THAT
RATIO IN HIS FAVOR.

THOR DOES IT BECAUSE
OUR BRIEF, MAYFLY LIVES
IN THE FACE OF HIS
IMMORTALITY STIRS
SOMETHING IN HIM.

IT WOULD BE **EASY** FOR
A GOD TO TAKE THE LONG
VIEW, TO FORGET THE
EVERYDAY TRIUMPHS AND
TERRORS OF MORTALS.

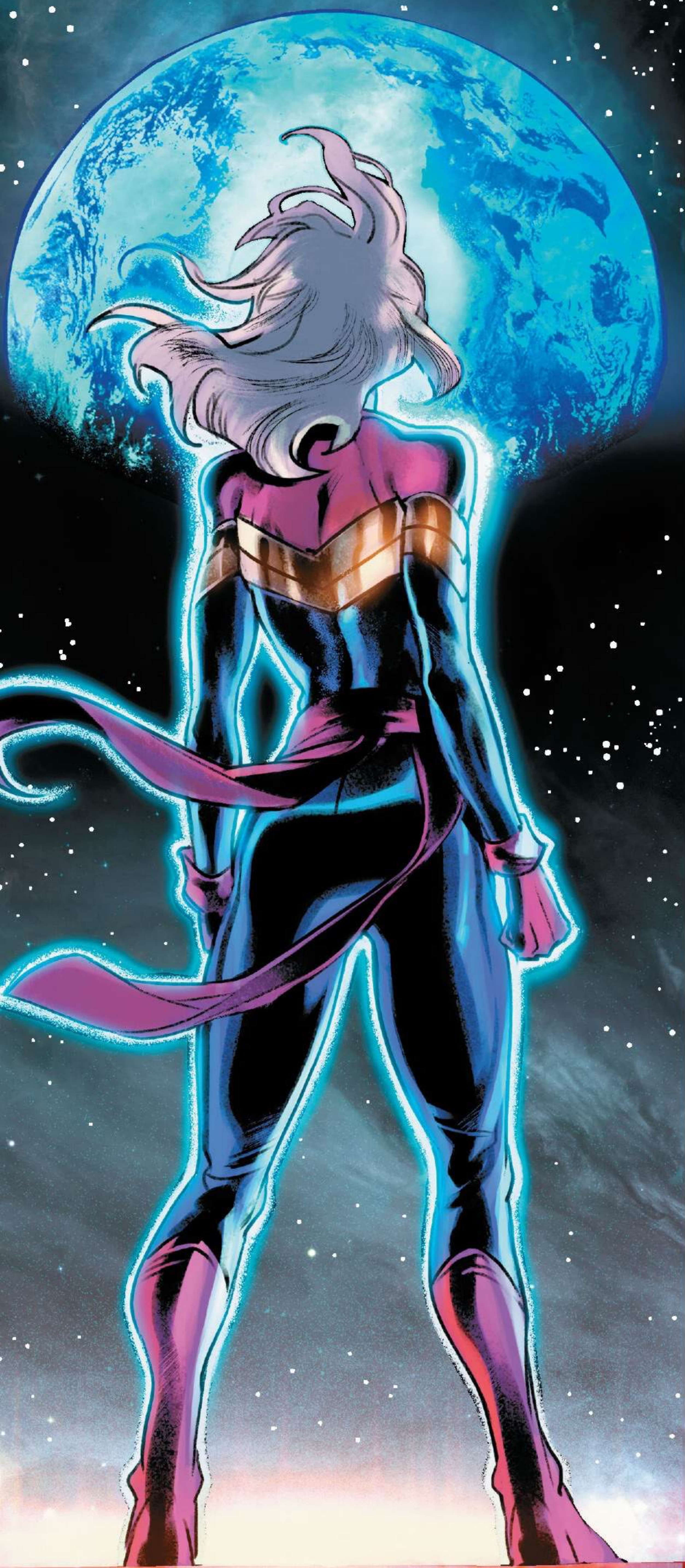


FOR ME?

IT'S *THIS*.

A FRAGILE ENVELOPE OF GASES
AND VAPOR SURROUNDING WATER
AND DIRT, AND ALL THE BEAUTIFUL
THINGS THAT LIVE ON IT.

A GEM OF
INFINITE WORTH.



WE CALL OURSELVES
THE *AVENGERS*. IT'S
A *WARNING*.

NOT FOR OUR
ENEMIES, BUT
FOR *OURSELVES*.

BECAUSE TO *AVENGE*
SOMETHING, YOU HAVE
TO *LOSE* IT.



AND *THIS* IS
SOMETHING WE
CAN'T AFFORD
TO *LOSE*.

IRON MAN
TO CAPTAIN
MARVEL.

WE'VE
GOT A LIVE
ONE.

I'M
ON MY
WAY.



...
YOU'RE NOT
GOING TO SAY
IT? YOU'RE
THE *CHAIR*.

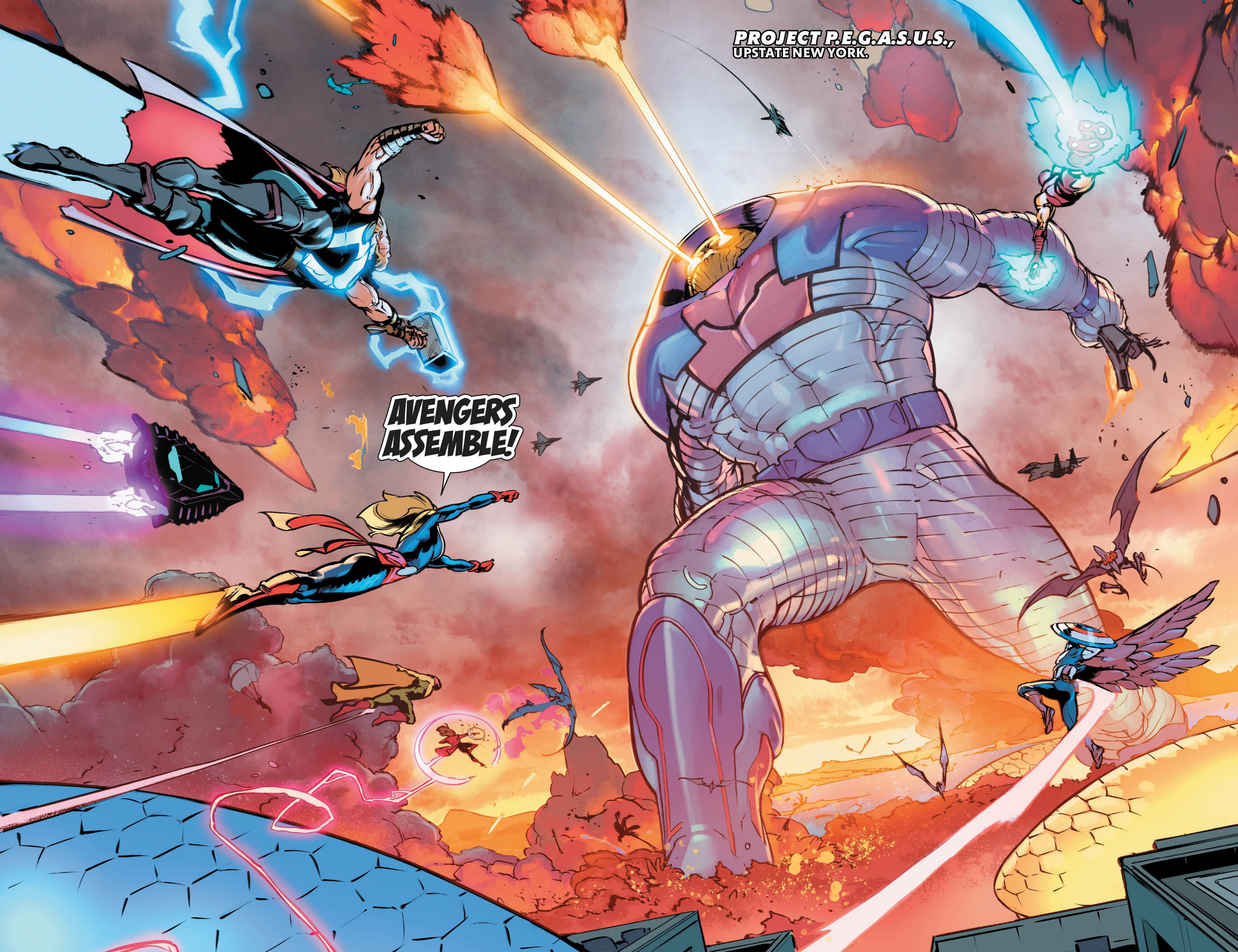


OF
COURSE
I'M GOING
TO SAY IT.



PROJECT P.E.G.A.S.U.S.,
UPSTATE NEW YORK.

**AVENGERS
ASSEMBLE!**



SEVEN DAYS
AGO.

WELL,
THE VOTES
ARE IN.

THE JARVIS
LOUNGE.

ALL THE
MOST RECENTLY
ACTIVE AVENGERS
HAVE CHOSEN...FOR
THEIR NEW
CHAIRPERSON...

...CAPTAAAAIN
MAAARVEL!

YAAAAAY!

AW
YEAH.

YOU
READY TO
GET BACK TO
POLICING THE
WORLD?

NO.

NO?

THE AVENGERS
AREN'T COPS.
OR, AT LEAST, WE
SHOULDN'T
BE.

THAT
DOESN'T
WORK, THAT
JUST GETS US
INTO CIVIL
WARS.

THE AVENGERS ARE
FIREFIGHTERS.

WE'RE THE
ONES WHO FLY
INTO THE **BLAZE**,
WHATEVER
IT IS.

BECAUSE
WE'RE THE ONES
WHO **CAN**, SO WE'RE
THE ONES WHO
HAVE TO.

WE SAVE LIVES.
THAT'S **IT**. THAT'S
OUR WHOLE MISSION
STATEMENT.

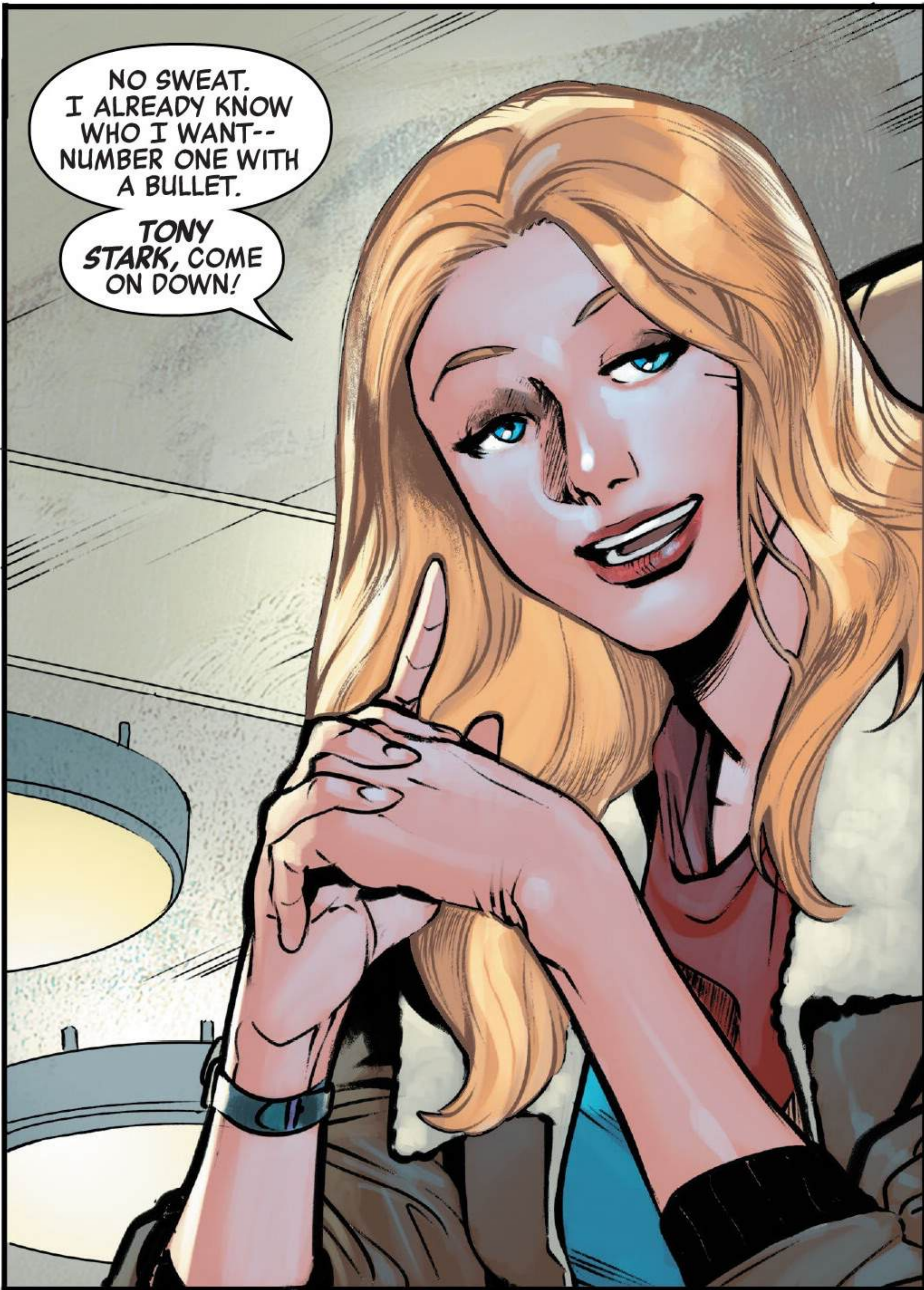


HN.

INTERESTING.

OKAY, SO THE AVENGERS ARE IN A **TRANSITIONAL** PHASE AFTER WHAT WE WENT THROUGH AT THE **GOD QUARRY**. * YOU NEED TO **REACH OUT**, BUILD YOUR ROSTER.

*AVENGERS ASSEMBLE: OMEGA #1! --TOM



NO SWEAT. I ALREADY KNOW WHO I WANT-- NUMBER ONE WITH A BULLET.

TONY STARK, COME ON DOWN!



SERIOUSLY?

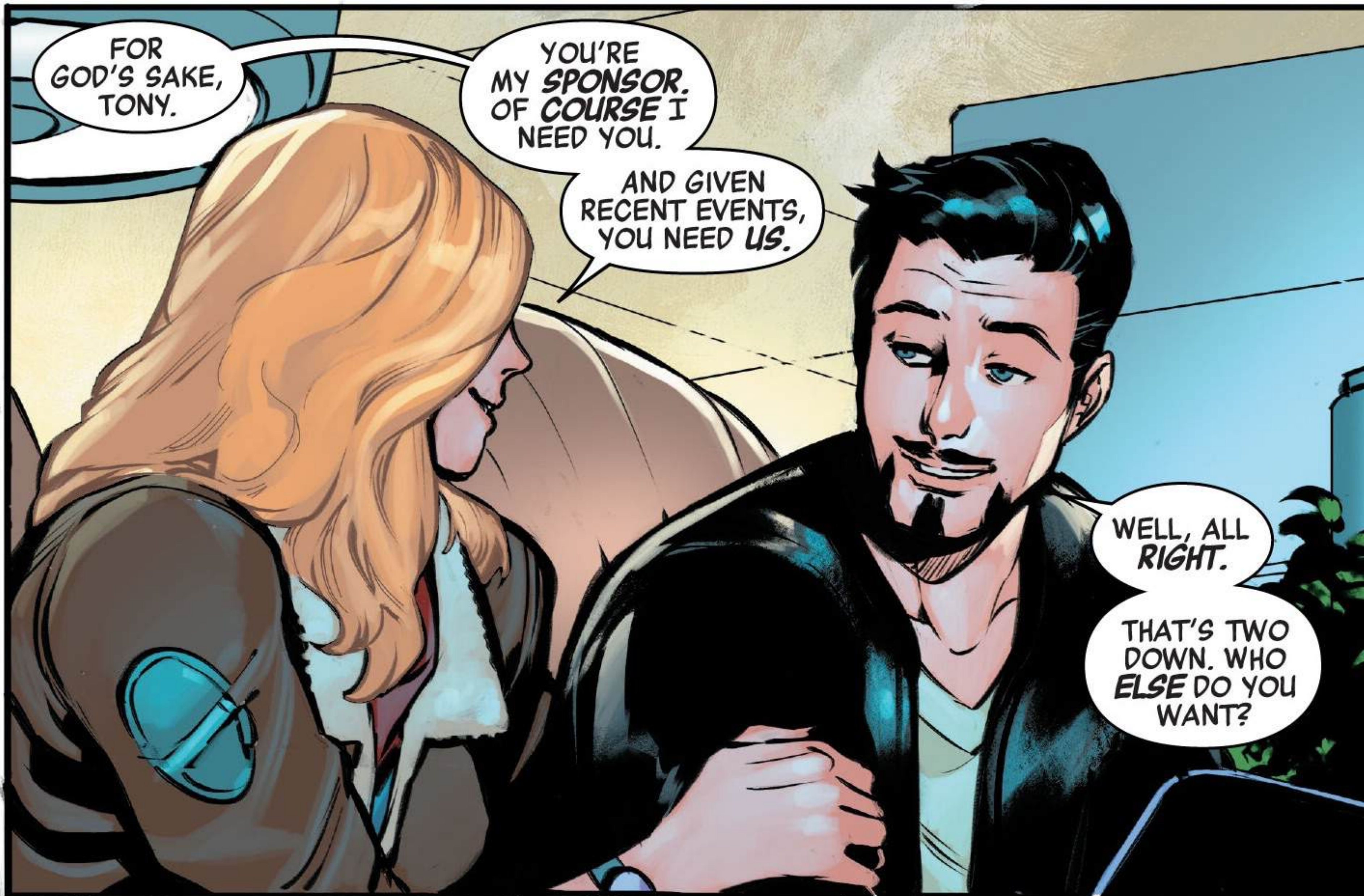
I'M YOUR FIRST PICK? I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE JESSICA DREW.



JESS, RHODEY, JEN... THEY'RE WHO I GO TO FOR **CAPTAIN MARVEL** BUSINESS.

WE'VE BEEN ON OPPOSITE SIDES BEFORE, AND I DIDN'T LIKE IT. SO LET'S WORK **TOGETHER**.

YOU'RE WHO I GO TO FOR **AVENGERS** BUSINESS. I WANT YOU TO BE MY **XO**, MY **NUMBER TWO**.



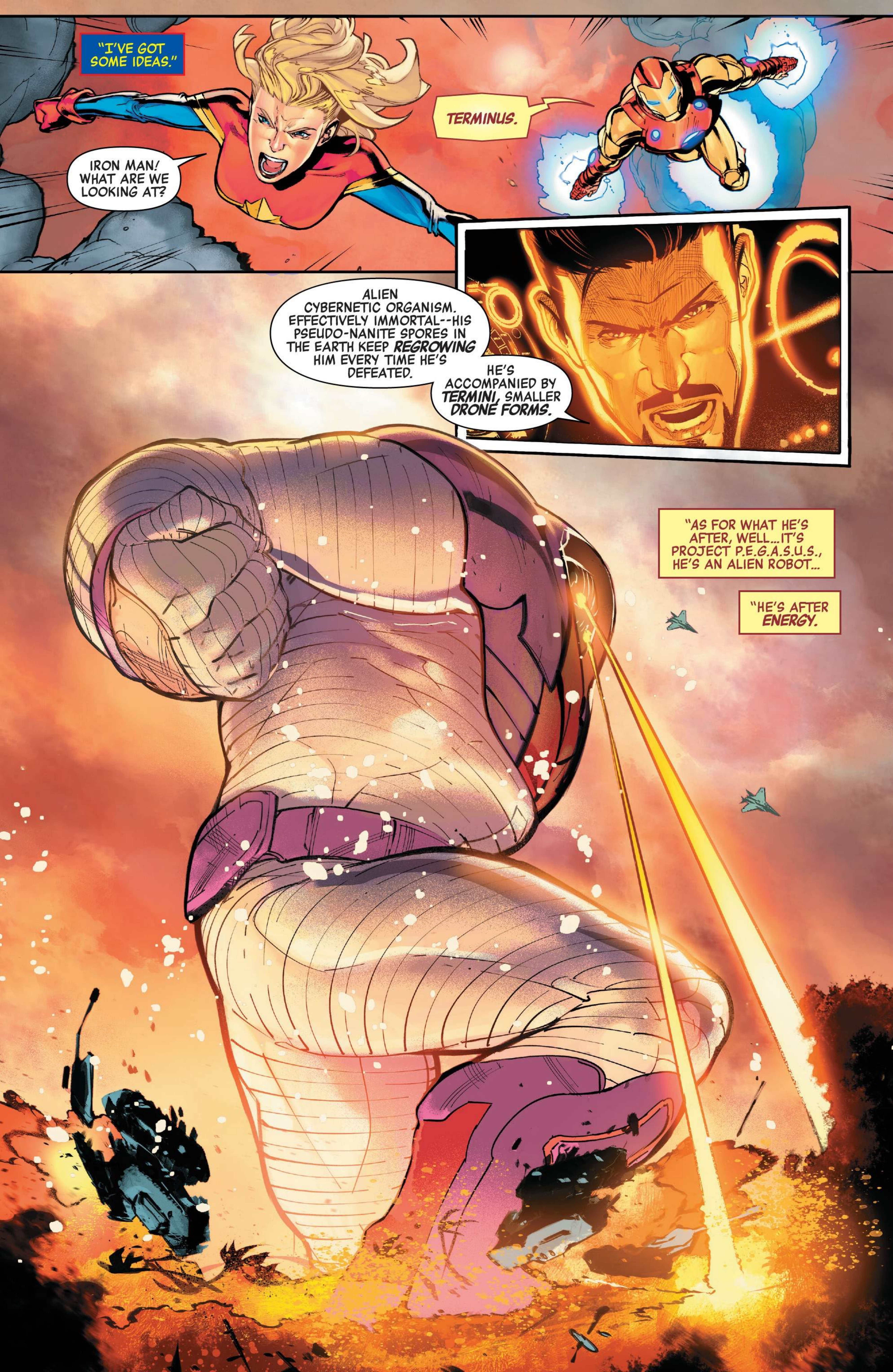
FOR GOD'S SAKE, TONY.

YOU'RE MY **SPONSOR**. OF **COURSE** I NEED YOU.

AND GIVEN RECENT EVENTS, YOU NEED **US**.

WELL, ALL **RIGHT**.

THAT'S TWO DOWN. WHO **ELSE** DO YOU WANT?



"I'VE GOT SOME IDEAS."

IRON MAN!
WHAT ARE WE
LOOKING AT?

TERMINUS.

ALIEN
CYBERNETIC ORGANISM.
EFFECTIVELY IMMORTAL--HIS
PSEUDO-NANITE SPORES IN
THE EARTH KEEP **REGROWING**
HIM EVERY TIME HE'S
DEFEATED.

HE'S
ACCOMPANIED BY
TERMINI, SMALLER
DRONE FORMS.

"AS FOR WHAT HE'S
AFTER, WELL...IT'S
PROJECT P.E.G.A.S.U.S.,
HE'S AN ALIEN ROBOT..."

"HE'S AFTER
ENERGY."

"HE'S AFTER
POWER."

POWER.
THAT'S MY
SECOND PICK.

SIX DAYS
AGO.

SO,
WHAT DO
YOU SAY?

YOU
IN?

ASGARD.

THOR USED
TO BE A LOT
MORE FUN.

I WAS
NEVER OUT,
CAROL.

I WAS AN
AVENGER AT THE
BEGINNING, AND I
WILL BE AN AVENGER
AT THE END OF
EVERYTHING.

IS IT
BECAUSE OUR
BRIEF MAYFLY LIVES
IN THE FACE OF YOUR
IMMORTALITY *STIRS*
SOMETHING
IN YOU?

HE'S BEEN
THROUGH A
LOT RECENTLY.

WE ALL HAVE.
IT'S THE LINE OF
WORK WE'RE IN.

...
...YES.

BUT WHEN MY DAD DIED,
I DIDN'T HAVE TO LEAD
A PANTHEON OF GODS.

THOUGH I GUESS
I DO NOW.

I
KNEW
IT!

CAP AND PANTHER, YOU'RE ON CIVILIAN EVAC.

THOR!
ON ME!

"LET'S LET HIM KNOW WE'RE HERE."

RAAAGH!

CHOOOOOOW

BE AWARE, MONSTER:

YOU WOULD NOT BE THE FIRST GIANT TO BE FELLED BY THOR.

YOU WOULD NOT BE THE FIRST GIANT TO BE FELLED BY THOR TODAY.

WHAT HE'S SAYING IS THIS-- STAND DOWN OR GET PUT DOWN, TERMINUS.

WE'RE THE AVENGERS.

AND HE AND I ARE THE NICE ONES.

THE SOUTH PACIFIC.

"DON'T MAKE US
BRING OUT THE
MOST DANGEROUS
MAN ALIVE."

**FIVE DAYS
AGO.**

HOW
DID YOU FIND
ME?

YOU
WANTED
ME TO.

WE **BOTH**
KNOW THAT IF
YOU **REALLY** WANTED
TO DISAPPEAR, **NO**
ONE WOULD BE
ABLE TO FIND YOU...

...WOULD
THEY,
T'CHALLA?

AND
WHY WOULD
I **WANT**
TO BE FOUND,
CAROL?

I DON'T
KNOW,
T'CHALLA.

BECAUSE
WE SURE DIDN'T
LEAVE THINGS IN A
GREAT SPOT
LAST TIME WE
TALKED.

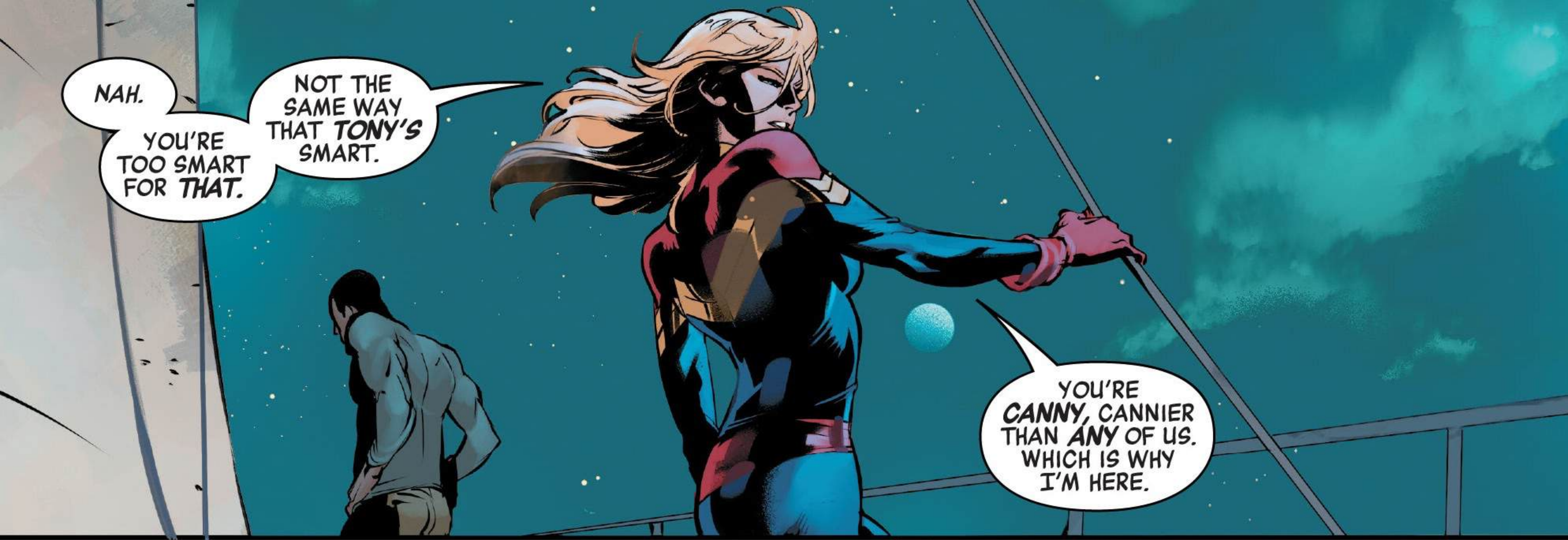
YOU
REMEMBER,
RIGHT?

WHEN YOU GAVE
YOUR **SLEEPER CELLS**
YOUR **KILLSWITCH**
PROTOCOLS. TOLD THEM
HOW TO TAKE DOWN
THE AVENGERS. YOUR
FRIENDS.

HRRNN...

SO. IS
THIS WHY I
WISHED TO
BE FOUND?

THAT I
MIGHT BE
SCOLDED FOR
MY **SINS** AT
ANY HOUR OF
THE DAY?

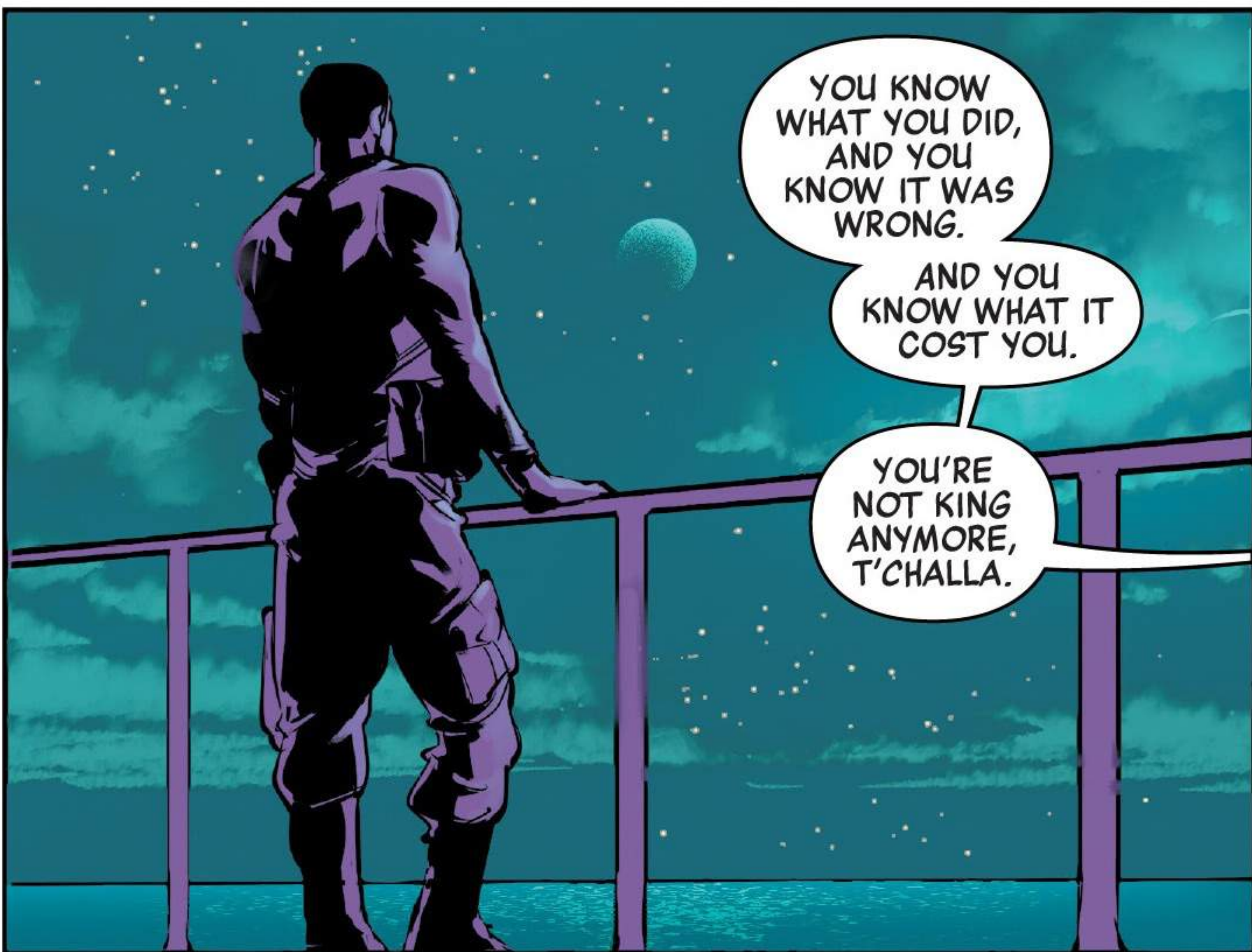


NAH.

YOU'RE TOO SMART FOR THAT.

NOT THE SAME WAY THAT TONY'S SMART.

YOU'RE **CANNY**, CANNIER THAN **ANY** OF US. WHICH IS WHY I'M HERE.



YOU KNOW WHAT YOU DID, AND YOU KNOW IT WAS WRONG.

AND YOU KNOW WHAT IT COST YOU.

YOU'RE NOT KING ANYMORE, T'CHALLA.



YOU'RE NOT EVEN THE **BLACK PANTHER**, NOT OFFICIALLY.

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU WANTED TO BE FOUND?



IT WAS SO I COULD SAY THIS: **COME HOME.**

COME AND BE AN AVENGER AGAIN.



BECAUSE EVEN AFTER ALL THAT, YOU **NEVER** STOPPED BEING ONE.



"AND BECAUSE EVEN AFTER ALL THAT, I WANT YOU ON *MY* TEAM."



CAPTAIN MARVEL TO BLACK PANTHER!

ARE YOU IN?



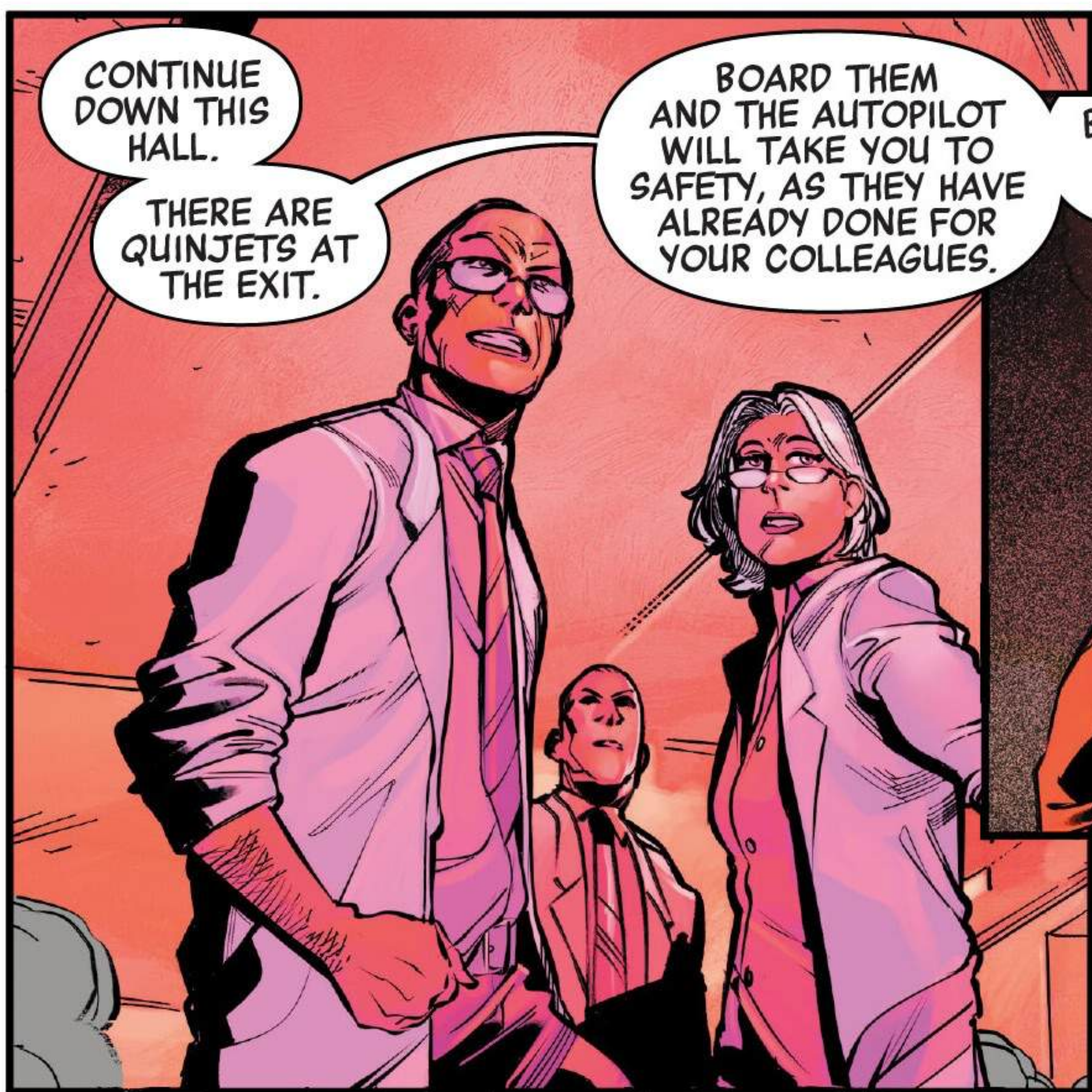
A MOMENT.



I WAS RIGHT.

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THEY ARE VULNERABLE TO ANTARCTIC VIBRANIUM.

CRASH



CONTINUE DOWN THIS HALL.

THERE ARE QUINJETS AT THE EXIT.

BOARD THEM AND THE AUTOPILOT WILL TAKE YOU TO SAFETY, AS THEY HAVE ALREADY DONE FOR YOUR COLLEAGUES.

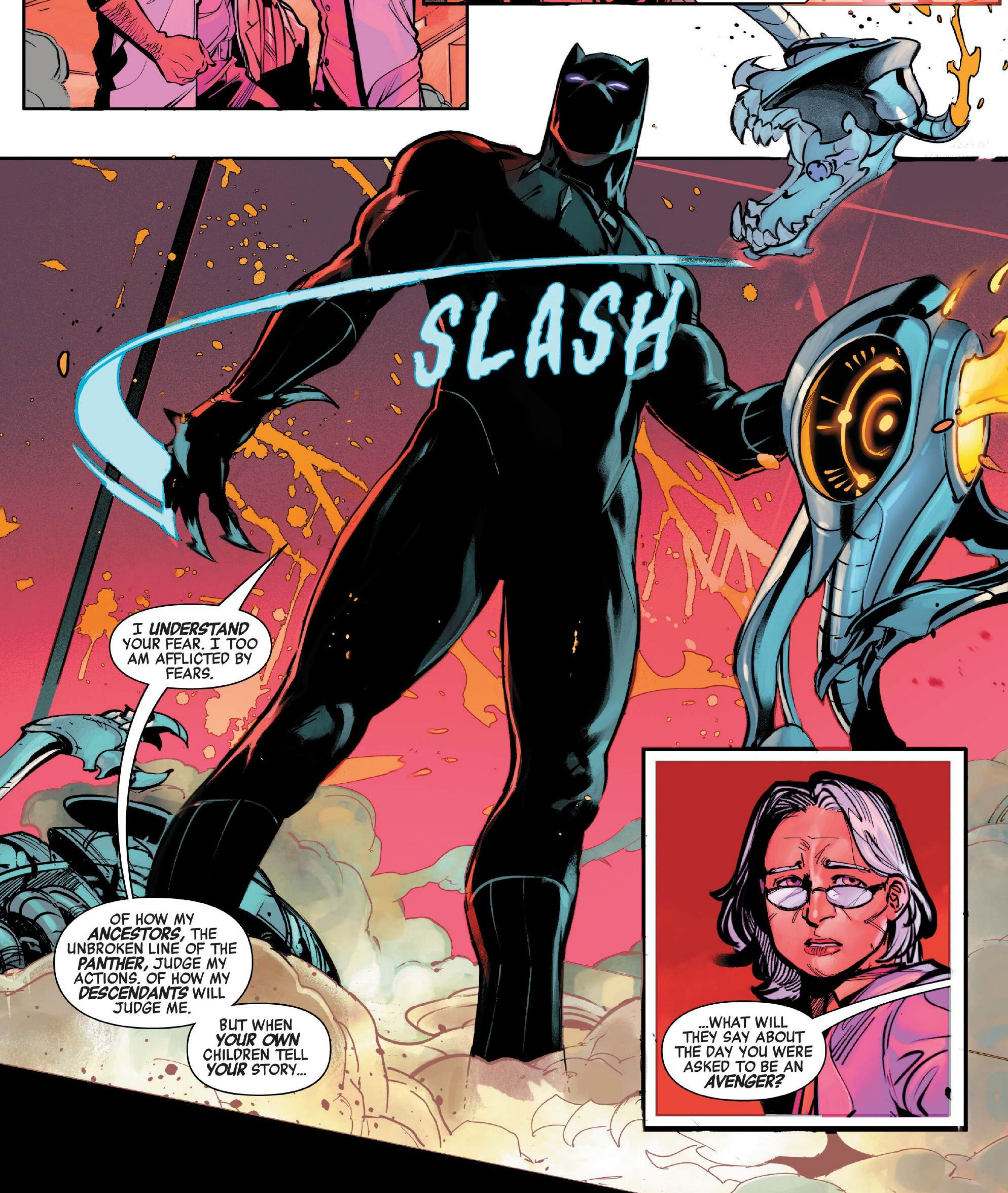
BUT IN ORDER TO FORESTALL CATASTROPHE...

...I NEED THE MOST *SENIOR* ENGINEER TO COME WITH ME.

THAT'S... THAT'S *ME*.

BUT I'M NOT CUT OUT FOR THIS KIND OF THING--

--I'M NOT LIKE YOU. I'M AFRAID--



SLASH

I UNDERSTAND YOUR FEAR. I TOO AM AFFLICTED BY FEARS.

OF HOW MY *ANCESTORS*, THE UNBROKEN LINE OF THE *PANTHER*, JUDGE MY ACTIONS. OF HOW MY *DESCENDANTS* WILL JUDGE ME.

BUT WHEN *YOUR OWN* CHILDREN TELL *YOUR STORY*...



...WHAT WILL THEY SAY ABOUT THE DAY YOU WERE ASKED TO BE AN *AVENGER*?

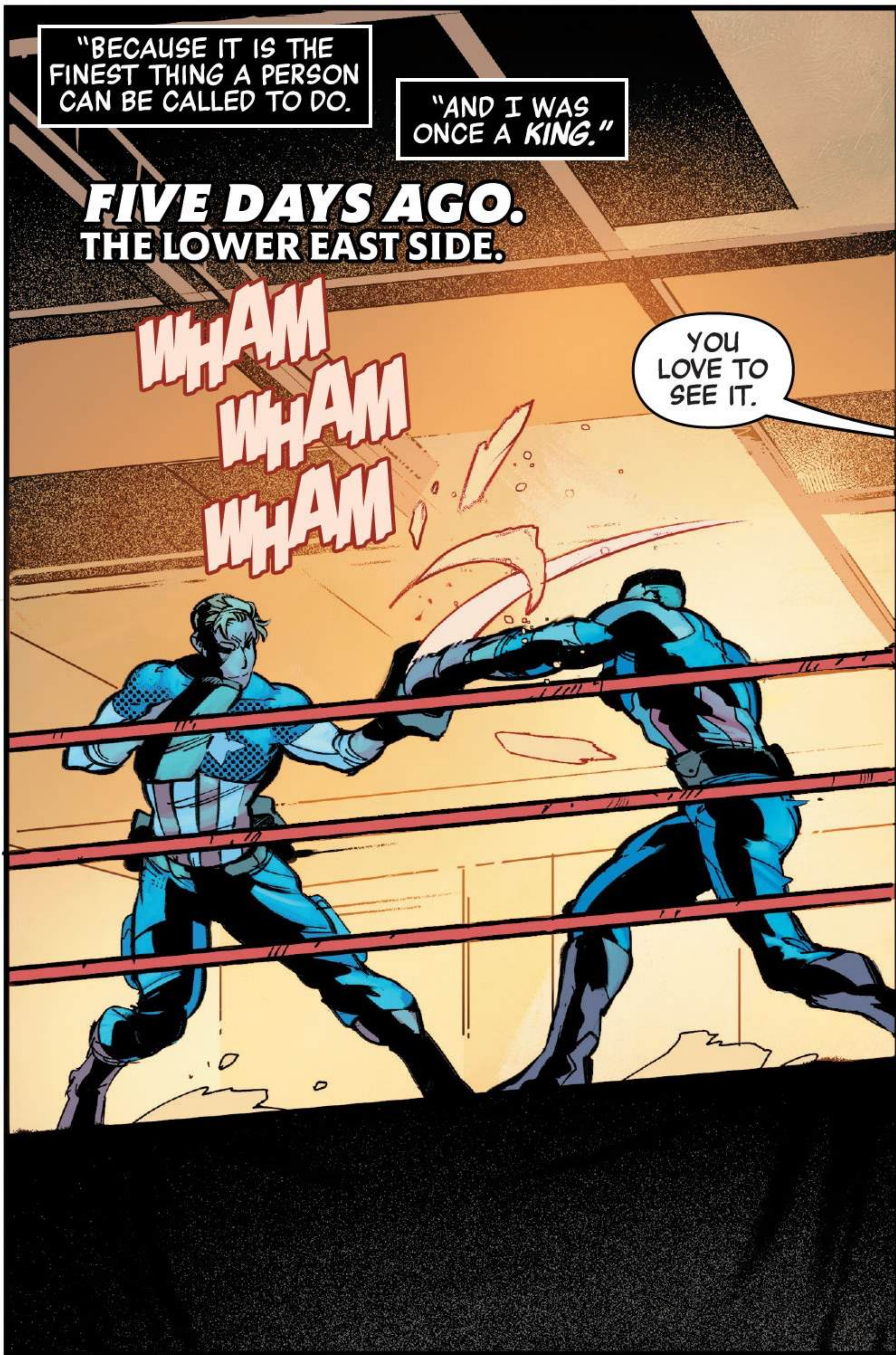
"BECAUSE IT IS THE
FINEST THING A PERSON
CAN BE CALLED TO DO.

"AND I WAS
ONCE A *KING*."

FIVE DAYS AGO.
THE LOWER EAST SIDE.

WHAM
WHAM
WHAM

YOU
LOVE TO
SEE IT.

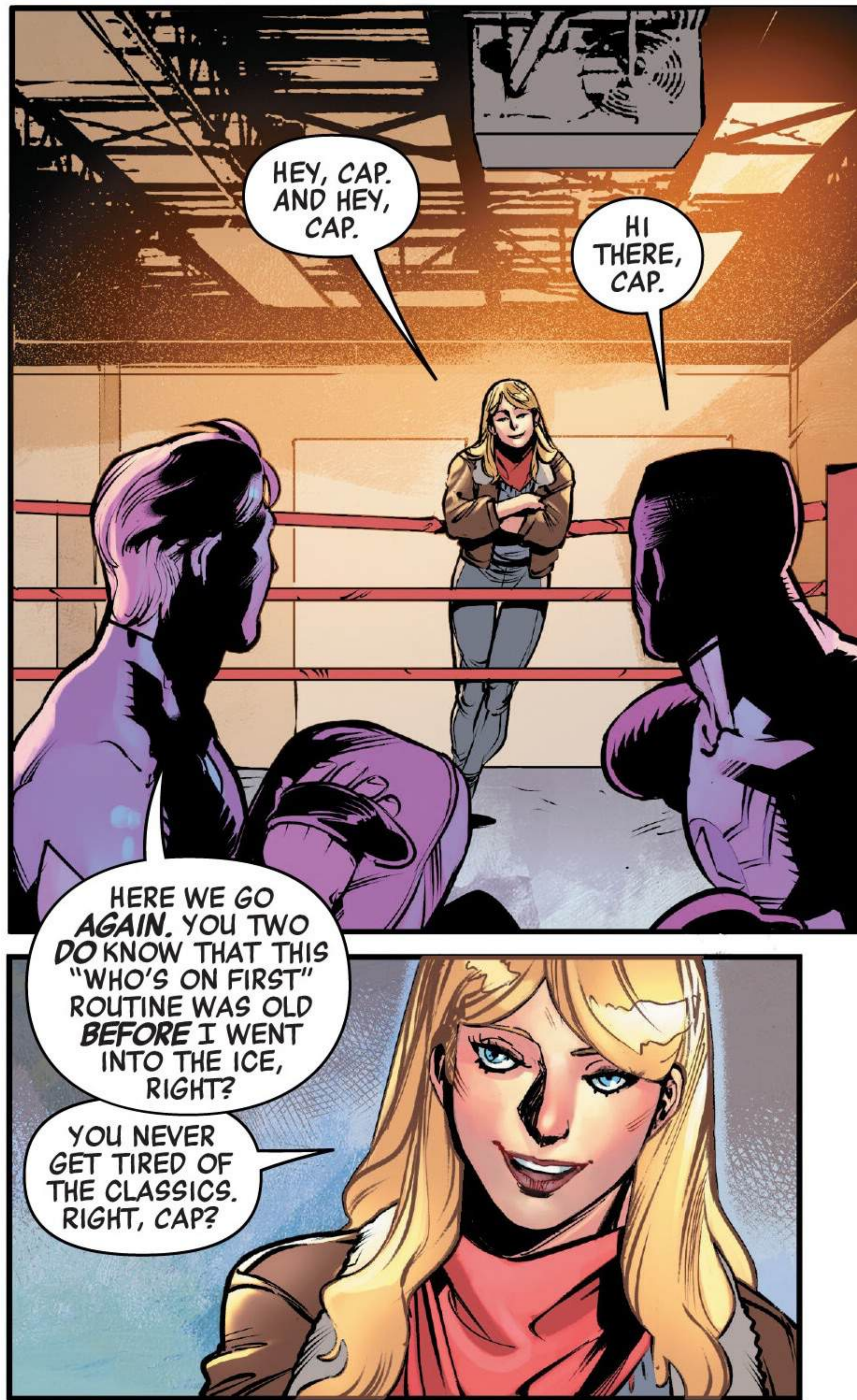


HEY, CAP.
AND HEY,
CAP.

HI
THERE,
CAP.

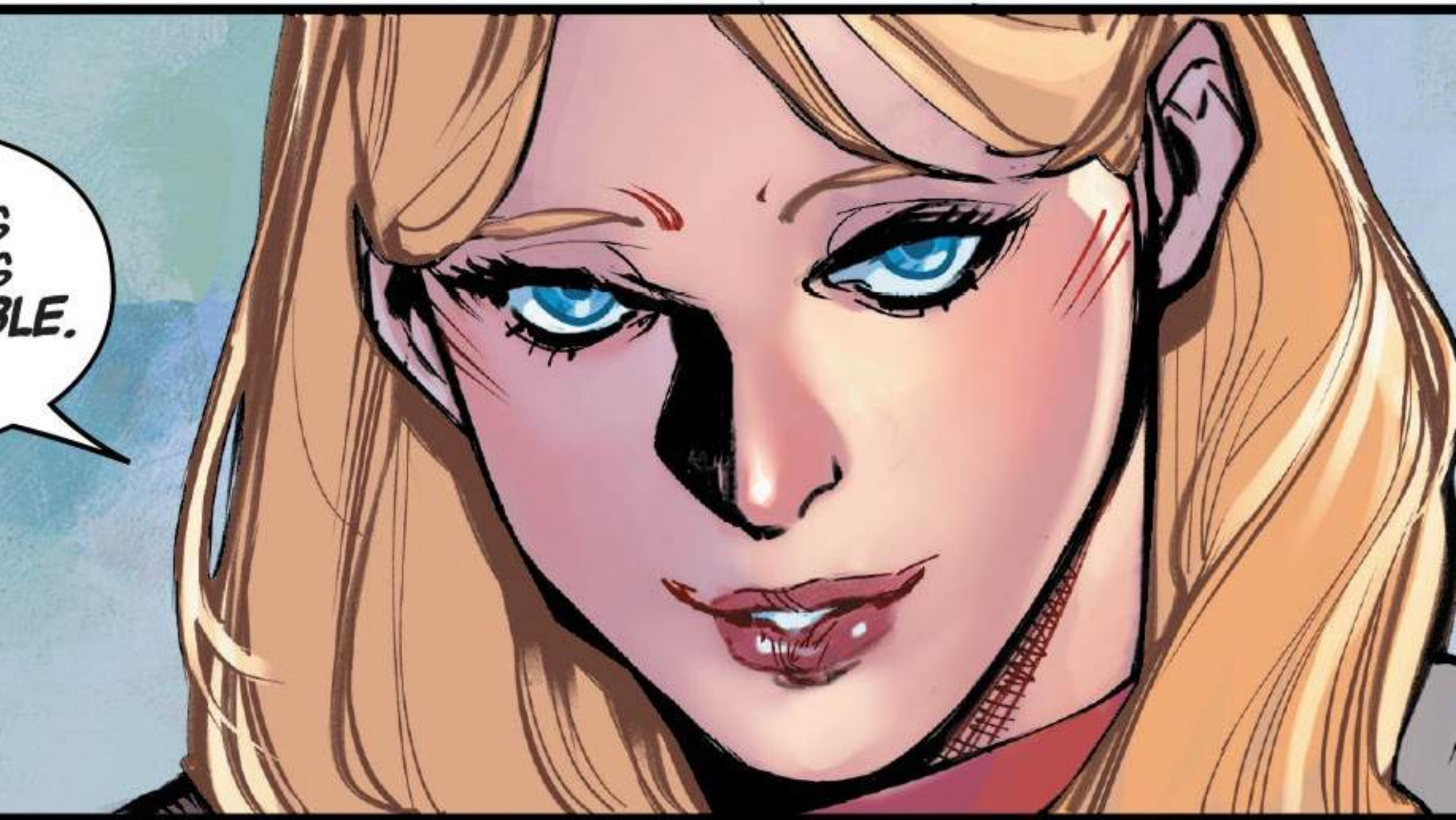
HERE WE GO
AGAIN. YOU TWO
DO KNOW THAT THIS
"WHO'S ON FIRST"
ROUTINE WAS OLD
BEFORE I WENT
INTO THE ICE,
RIGHT?

YOU NEVER
GET TIRED OF
THE CLASSICS.
RIGHT, CAP?



RIGHT
YOU ARE,
CAP. WHAT'S
UP?

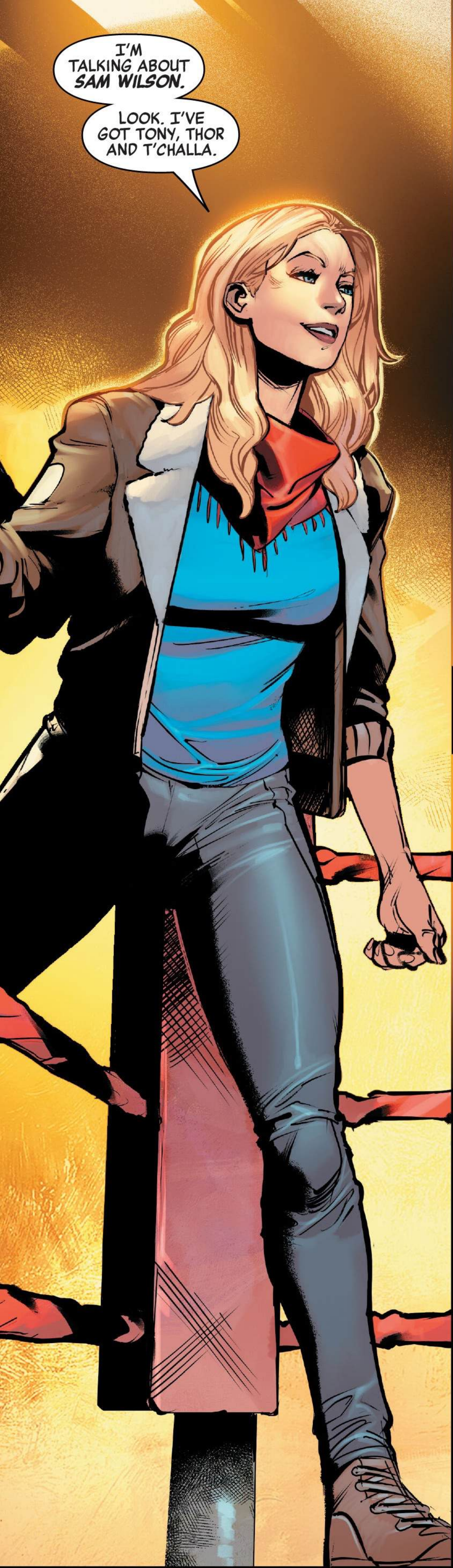
I'M THE
NEW AVENGERS
CHAIR, AND IT'S
TIME TO *ASSEMBLE*.
HOW ABOUT
IT, CAP?



WAIT, NOW
THE BIT'S GOT *ME*
CONFUSED.

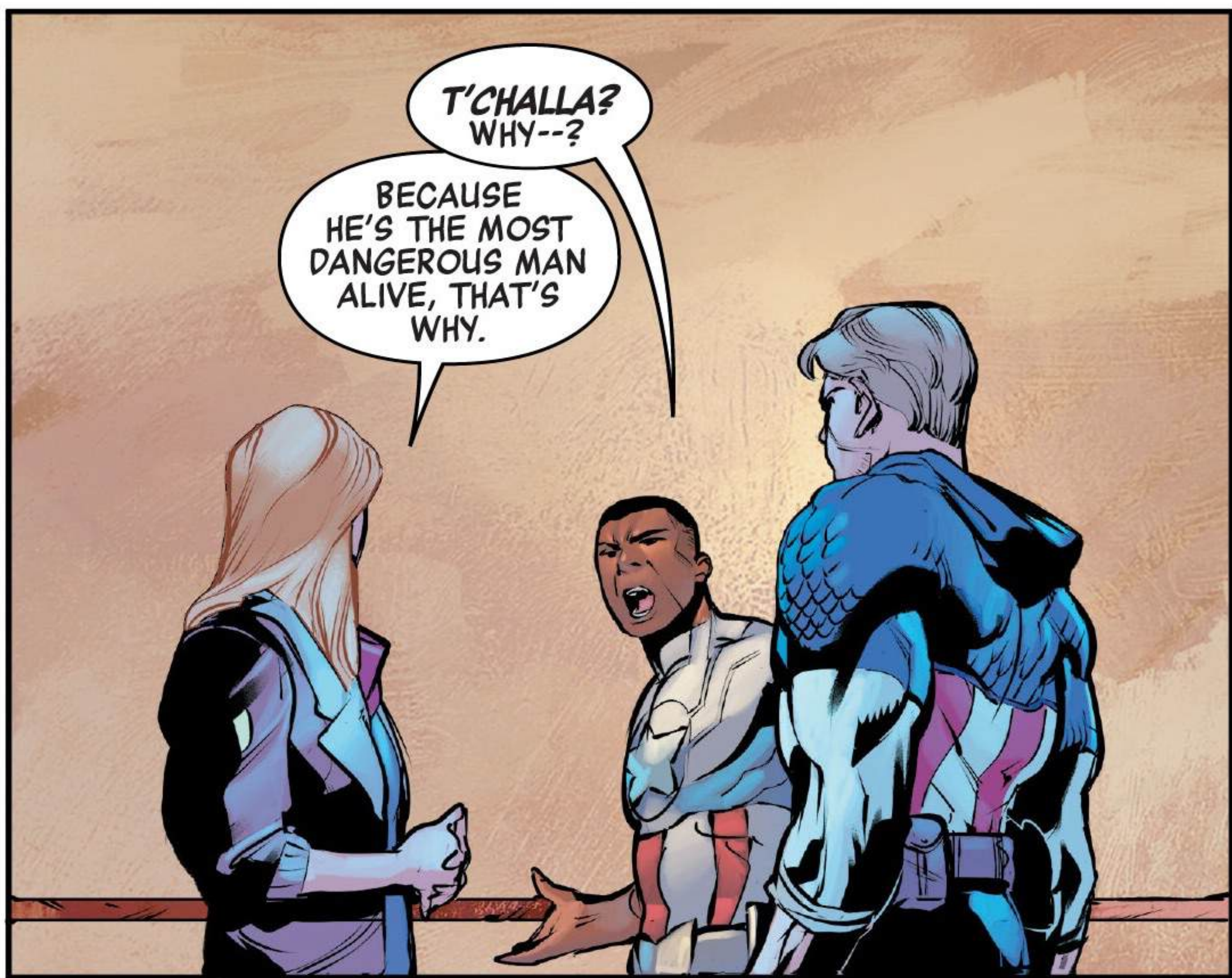
ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT
ME? OR *CAP*?





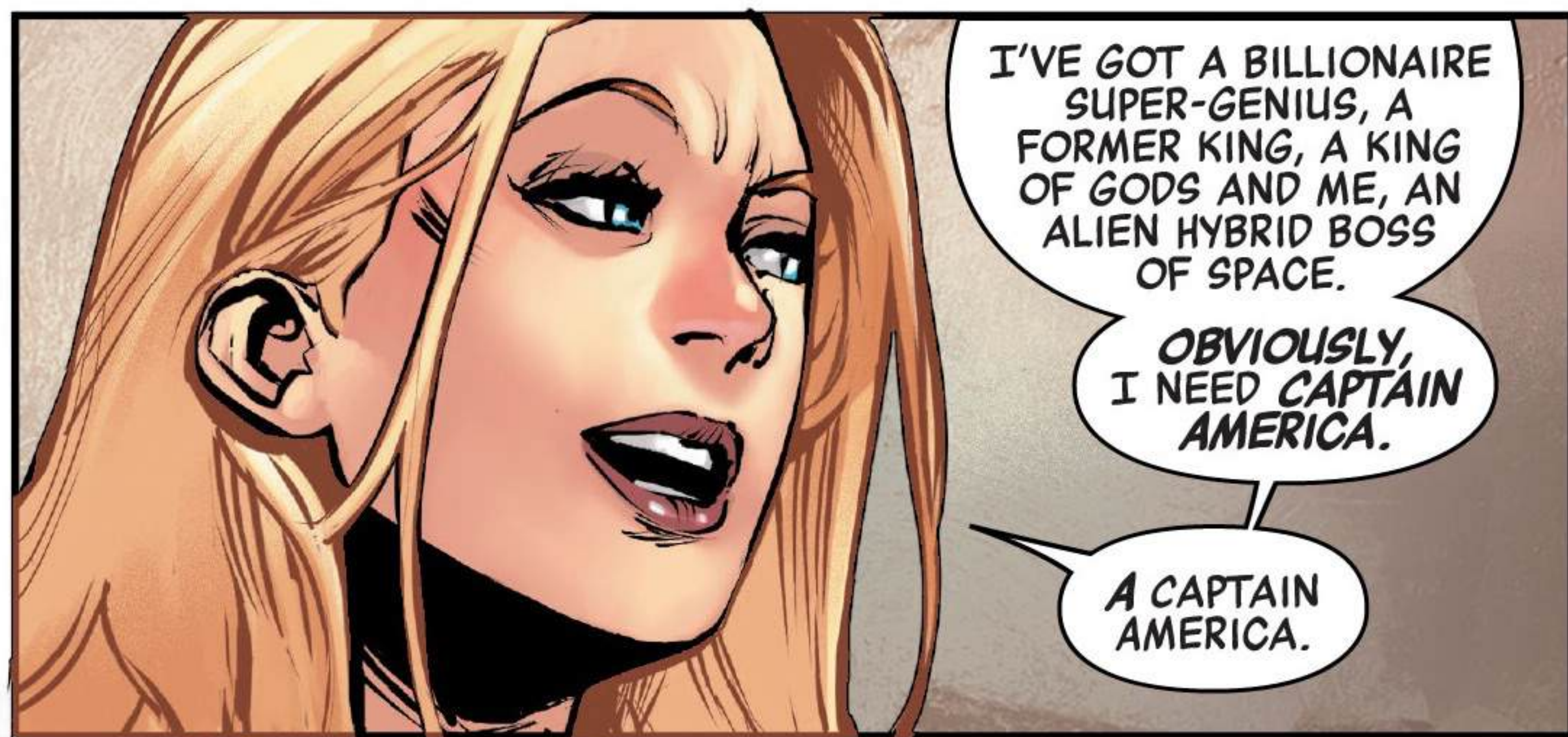
I'M TALKING ABOUT SAM WILSON.

LOOK. I'VE GOT TONY, THOR AND T'CHALLA.



T'CHALLA? WHY--?

BECAUSE HE'S THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN ALIVE, THAT'S WHY.



I'VE GOT A BILLIONAIRE SUPER-GENIUS, A FORMER KING, A KING OF GODS AND ME, AN ALIEN HYBRID BOSS OF SPACE.

OBVIOUSLY, I NEED CAPTAIN AMERICA.

A CAPTAIN AMERICA.



BUT MORE THAN THAT, I NEED A **NORMAL PERSON**.

AND WAR-HERO, MAN-OUT-OF-TIME, LIVING-LEGEND STEVE ROGERS ISN'T THAT.

(NO OFFENSE, CAP.)

NONE TAKEN, CAP.



BUT YOU, **SAM WILSON, SOCIAL WORKER**, ARE THE CLOSEST THING I HAVE TO THAT.

THE AVENGERS AREN'T **GODS**. WE CAN'T AFFORD TO ACT LIKE WE ARE.

AND TO REMIND US OF THAT, WE NEED A **GROUND**ED PERSPECTIVE. THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN.

"SO, CAN WE COUNT ON YOUR SHIELD?"

CAPTAIN AMERICA TO CAPTAIN MARVEL.

SOMETHING'S HAPPENING DOWN HERE--THE BIRDS ARE PICKING UP A **HUGE** ELECTROMAGNETIC FLUX.

THE BIRDS?

KLANGG

THEY CAN SEE THE MAGNETIC FIELDS. IT'S HOW THEY NAVIGATE IN THEIR MIGRATIONS.

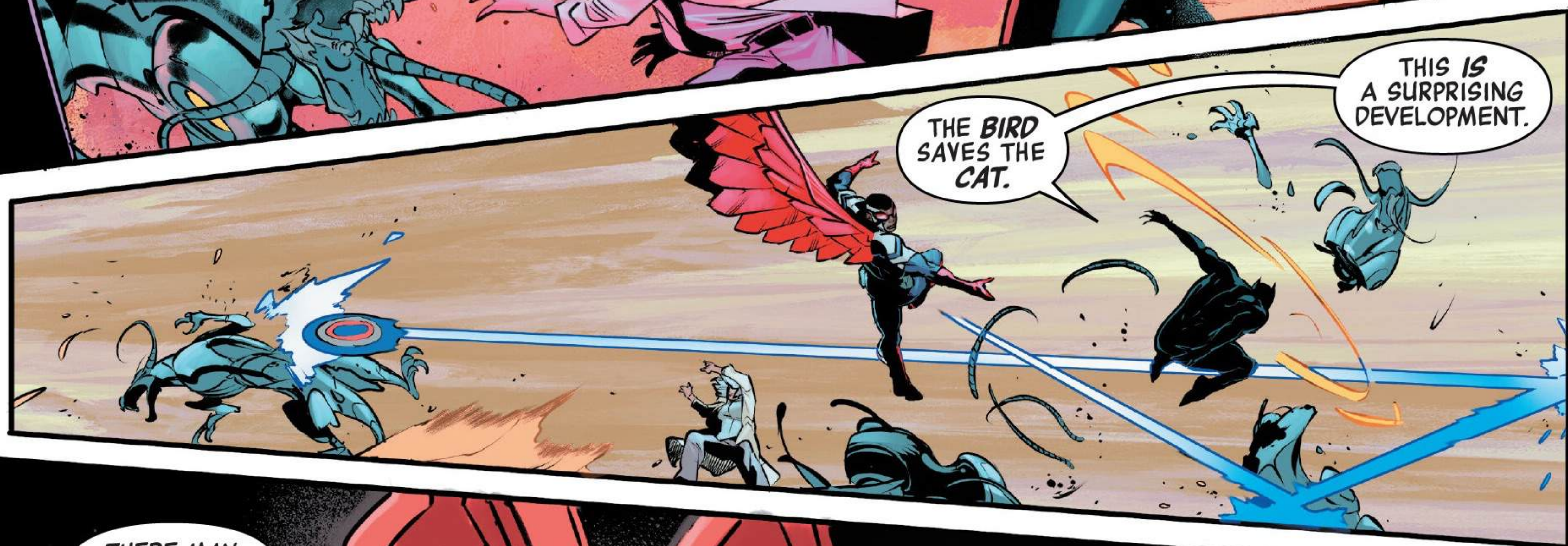
AND HERE I'VE BEEN THROWING MONEY AWAY ON SATELLITES.

WHAT WAS THAT?

WHOOOSH

THAT WAS THOR.

TERMINUS ISN'T **SURRENDERING**, IT WOULD APPEAR.



**FOUR DAYS AGO.
THE NORTH POLE.**

SO, WHAT'S
TAKEN THE
CHERRY OUT OF
YOUR PIE?

DO YOU
REMEMBER
JUDGMENT
DAY?

YOU MEAN
WHEN TONY'S
BOOTSTRAPPED
CELESTIAL JUDGED
EVERYONE ON
THE PLANET?

KIND
OF HARD TO
FORGET.

IT WAS AN
UNPRECEDENTED
EVENT.

EVERY
THINKING
CREATURE ON THE
PLANET CONFRONTED
WITH THEIR OWN
SINS AND TRIUMPHS,
KNOWINGLY OR
UNKNOWNLY.

A
COLLECTIVE
TRAUMA THAT
UNITED THE
WORLD IN ITS
TERROR.

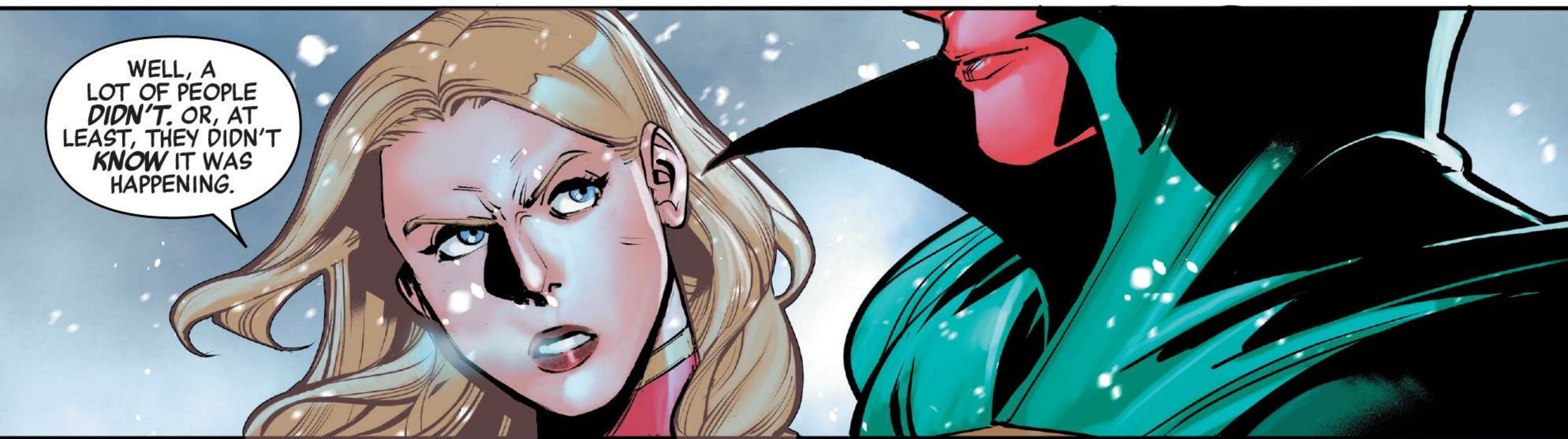
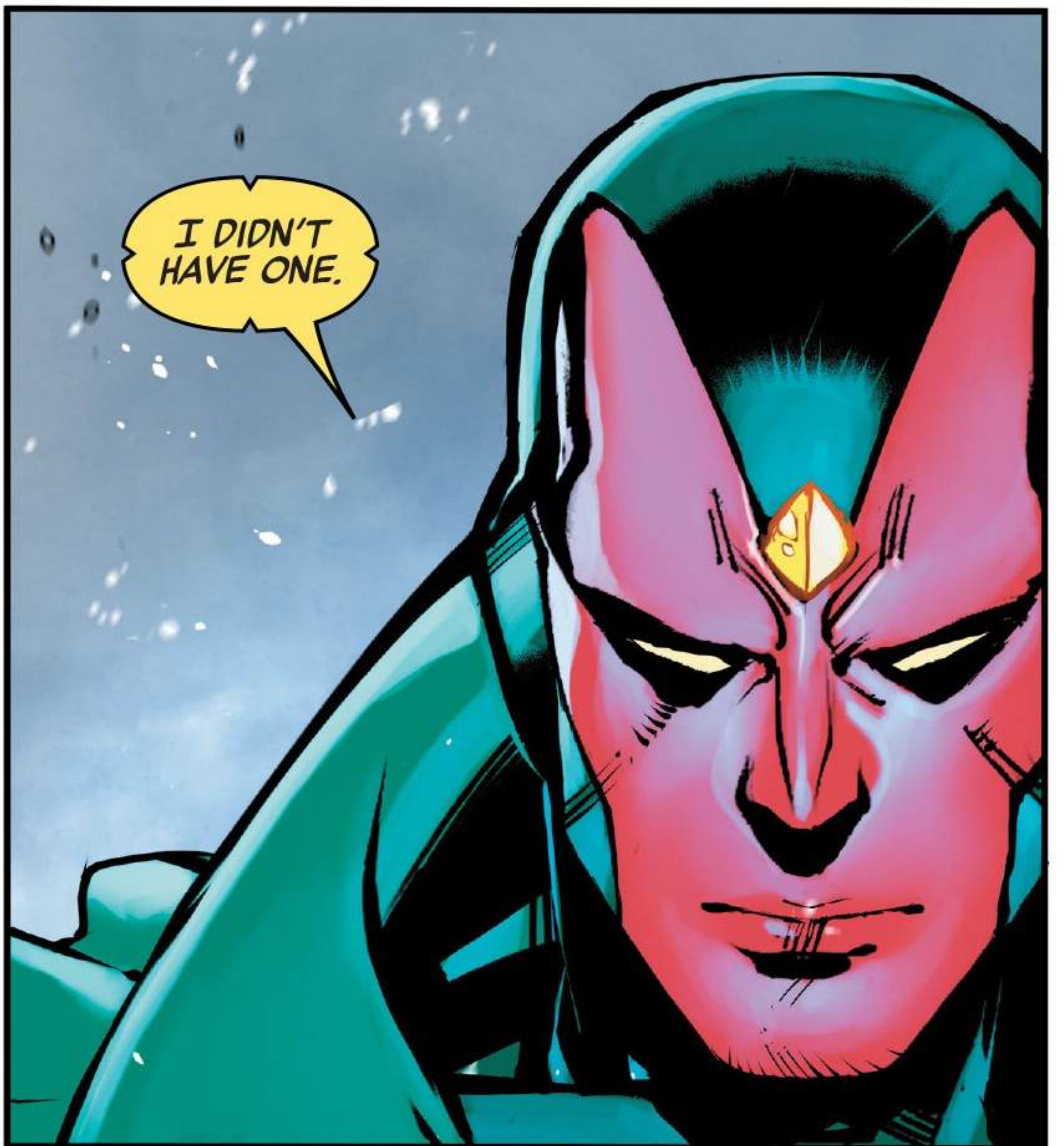
YEAH.

I REMEMBER
MINE. I GUESS
IT'S CONSIDERED
RUDE TO ASK
PEOPLE ABOUT
THEIRS.

ASK ME
ABOUT MINE,
CAROL.

OKAY,
I'LL BITE.

WHAT WAS
YOUR JUDGMENT
LIKE, VISION?



"I DON'T WANT
YOU ON MY TEAM
TO PROVE YOURSELF
ALL OVER AGAIN."

VISION
TO THE
AVENGERS.

I
HAVE THOR.
RETURNING TO
THE CONFLICT
ZONE.

"I WANT YOU ON MY
TEAM BECAUSE YOU
ALREADY HAVE."

PLEASE
CLEAR THE BLAST
ZONE.

VEEEEEEEE--

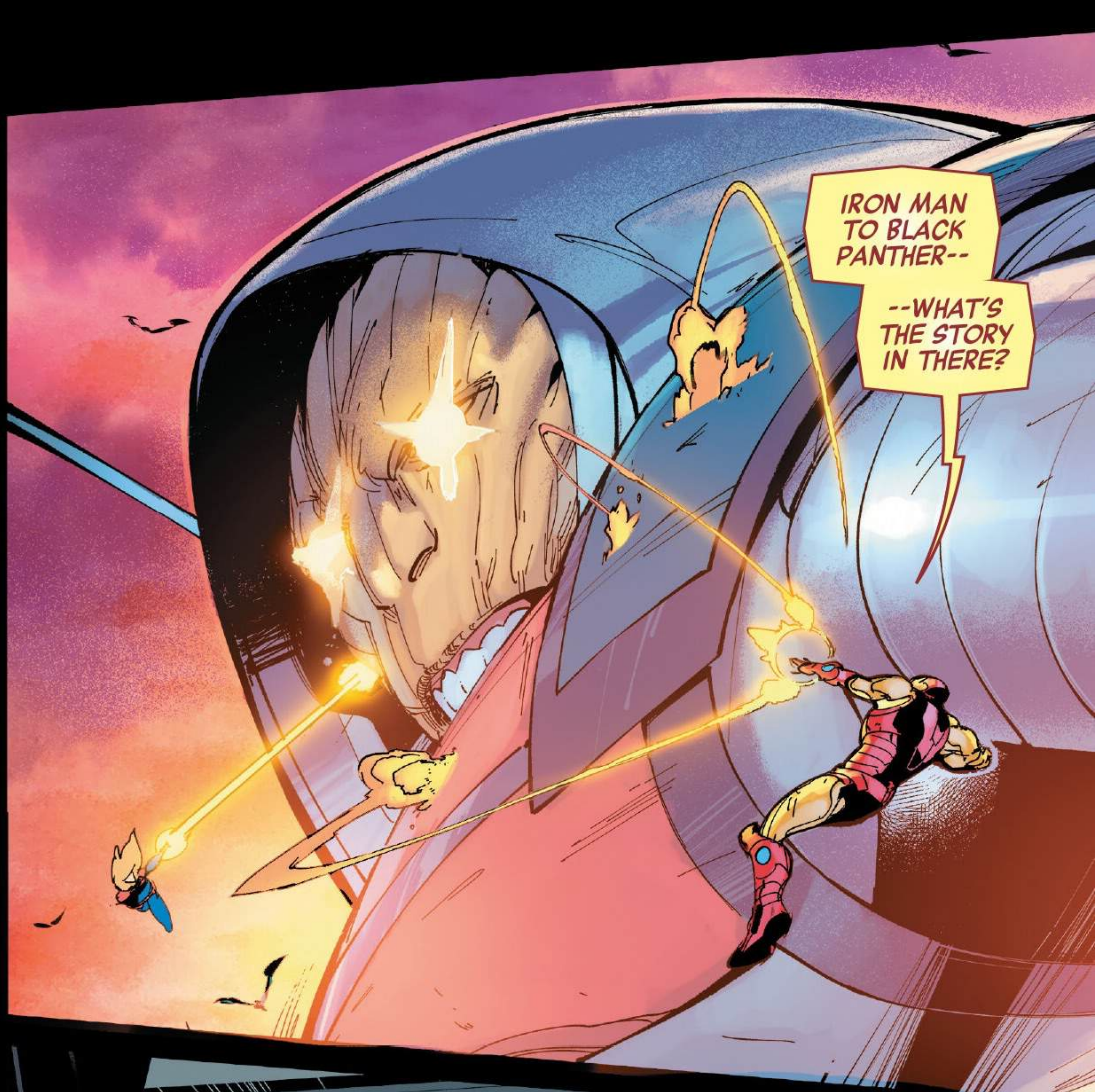
--EEEEEEEEEN

ARRRGHHH!



LEAVE ME,
VERMIN!

I MUST GROW
STRONGER. THE
CONVERGENCE
IS COMING--



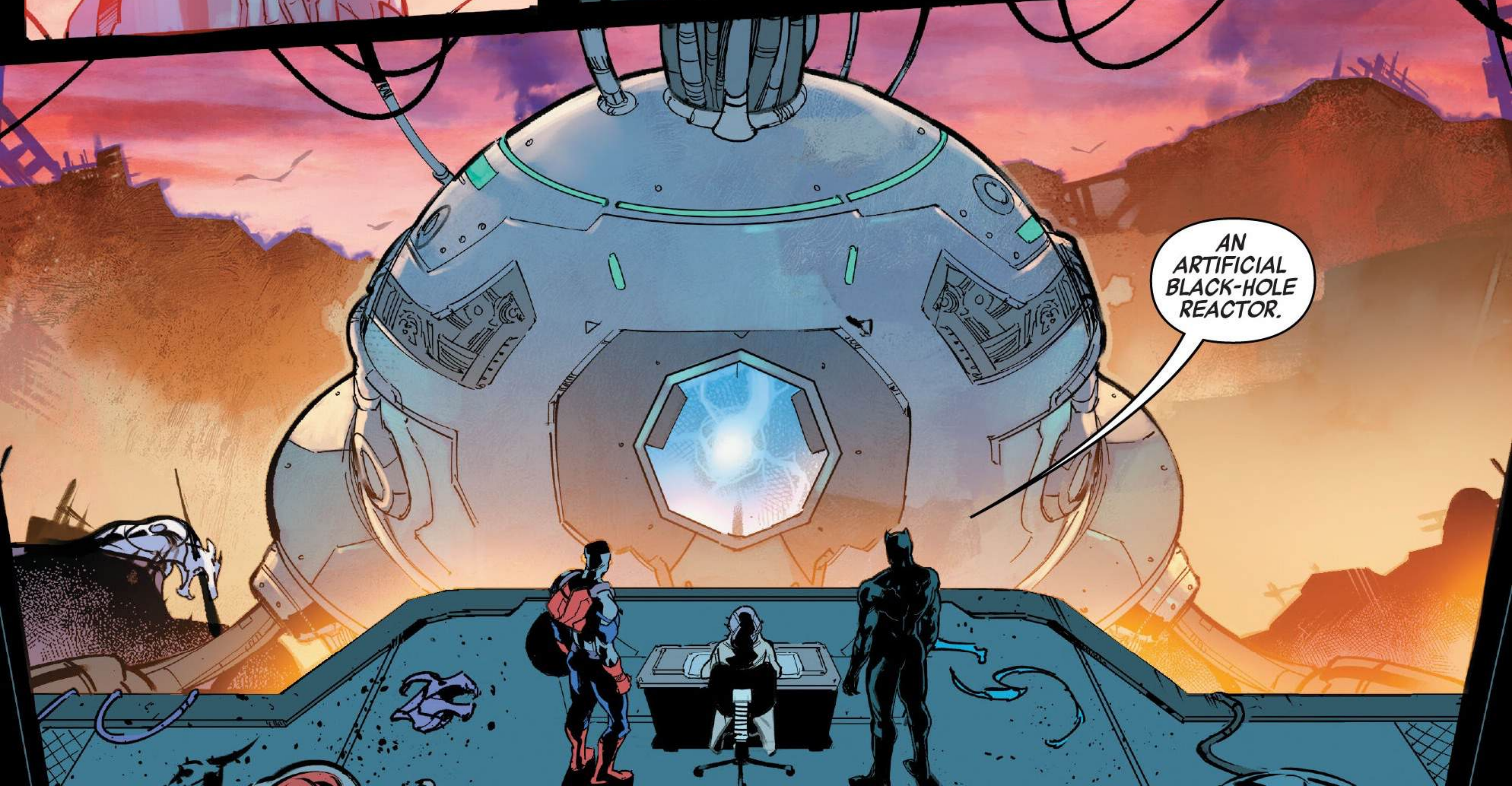
IRON MAN
TO BLACK
PANTHER--

--WHAT'S
THE STORY
IN THERE?



THE REMIT
OF PROJECT
P.E.G.A.S.U.S. IS
TO EXPLORE
ALTERNATIVE
ENERGY
SOURCES.

THEIR
LATEST
PROGRAM?



AN
ARTIFICIAL
BLACK-HOLE
REACTOR.

AND
TERMINUS
WANTS IT?

THUNK

YES. I
BELIEVE HE
WANTS TO
INCORPORATE
IT INTO HIS
BODY,
INCREASE HIS
POWER
OUTPUT.

WOULD YOU
LIKE THE GOOD
NEWS FIRST? OR
THE BAD?

I SURE
COULD USE SOME
GOOD NEWS,
T'CHALLA.

THAT WAS A TRICK.
I'M THE BLACK
PANTHER--I **NEVER**
HAVE GOOD NEWS.

OH, SO
WE'RE DOING
JOKES NOW--

EITHER
TERMINUS ISN'T
AS INTELLIGENT AS
HE BELIEVES HIMSELF
TO BE...OR HE IS
DESPERATE.

HIS ATTACK
HAS DAMAGED THE
REACTOR'S CONTAINMENT
FLASK. THE BLACK HOLE
WILL BE RELEASED
UPON THE WORLD.

WE MAY
WANT TO START
EVACUATING THE
STATE.

SOUNDS
LIKE WE NEED
SOMEONE--

OOOOFF!

WHAMMM

"EXCUSE ME.

"SOMEONE WHO
CAN DO THE
IMPOSSIBLE."

THREE DAYS AGO.

THIS IS
NICE.

**THE EMPORIUM.
LOTKILL, NY.**

THANK
YOU, CAROL.
I'M GLAD YOU
LIKE IT.

AND THE
ANSWER IS
YES.

I DIDN'T
EVEN ASK YOU
YET. DID YOU READ
MY MIND?

OF
COURSE
NOT.

BUT I
KNOW YOU.
AND I KNOW THE
AVENGERS.

THE AVENGERS
HAVE BEEN THE
ONE POINT OF
STABILITY IN MY
ENTIRE LIFE.

AND
IF THE
AVENGERS
CALL....

"...THEN THE
SCARLET WITCH
WILL ALWAYS
ANSWER."

SCARLET
WITCH TO THE
AVENGERS.

I CAN
CONTAIN
THE BLACK
HOLE WITH
A SPELL...

...BUT THE
OVERLAPPING
MAGNETIC FIELDS
OF THE PROJECT
P.E.G.A.S.U.S.
FACILITY ARE
INTERFERING WITH
MY MAGIC. I
NEED SOMEONE
TO GET IT
CLEAR.



CAPTAIN
MARVEL TO
SCARLET
WITCH.

I'M
ON IT.

HEY,
T'CHALLA.
CAP.

ARE YOU
NOT NEEDED
OUT THERE?



WELL, I'VE
GOT GOOD NEWS
AND BAD NEWS.
WHAT DO YOU
WANT FIRST--?

BAD
NEWS.



"IRON MAN AND VISION
ARE KEEPING TERMINUS
BUSY. BUT THAT'S ONLY
GOING TO LAST SO LONG."



AND
THE GOOD
NEWS?

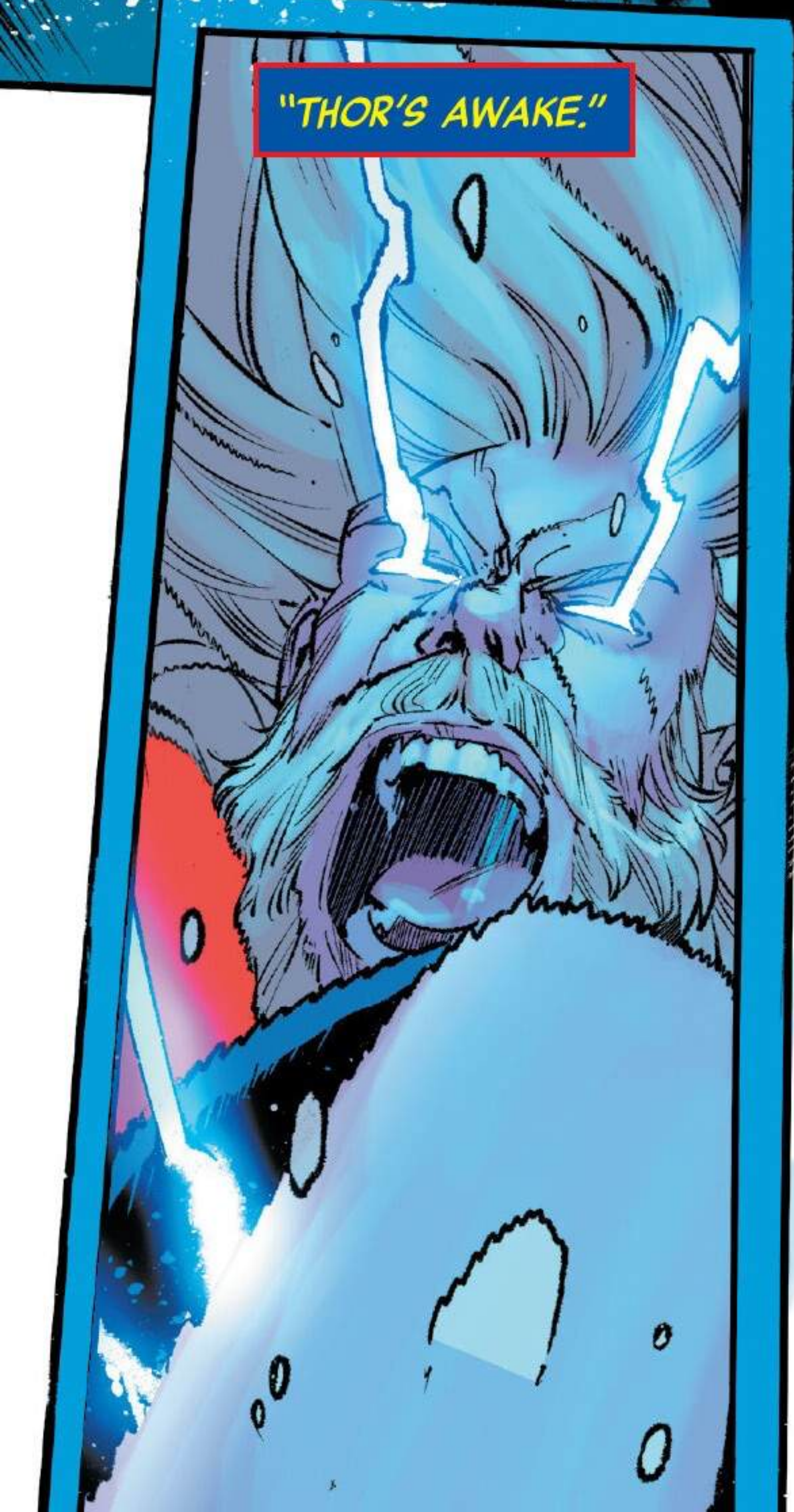
...
THERE IS
GOOD NEWS,
CORRECT?

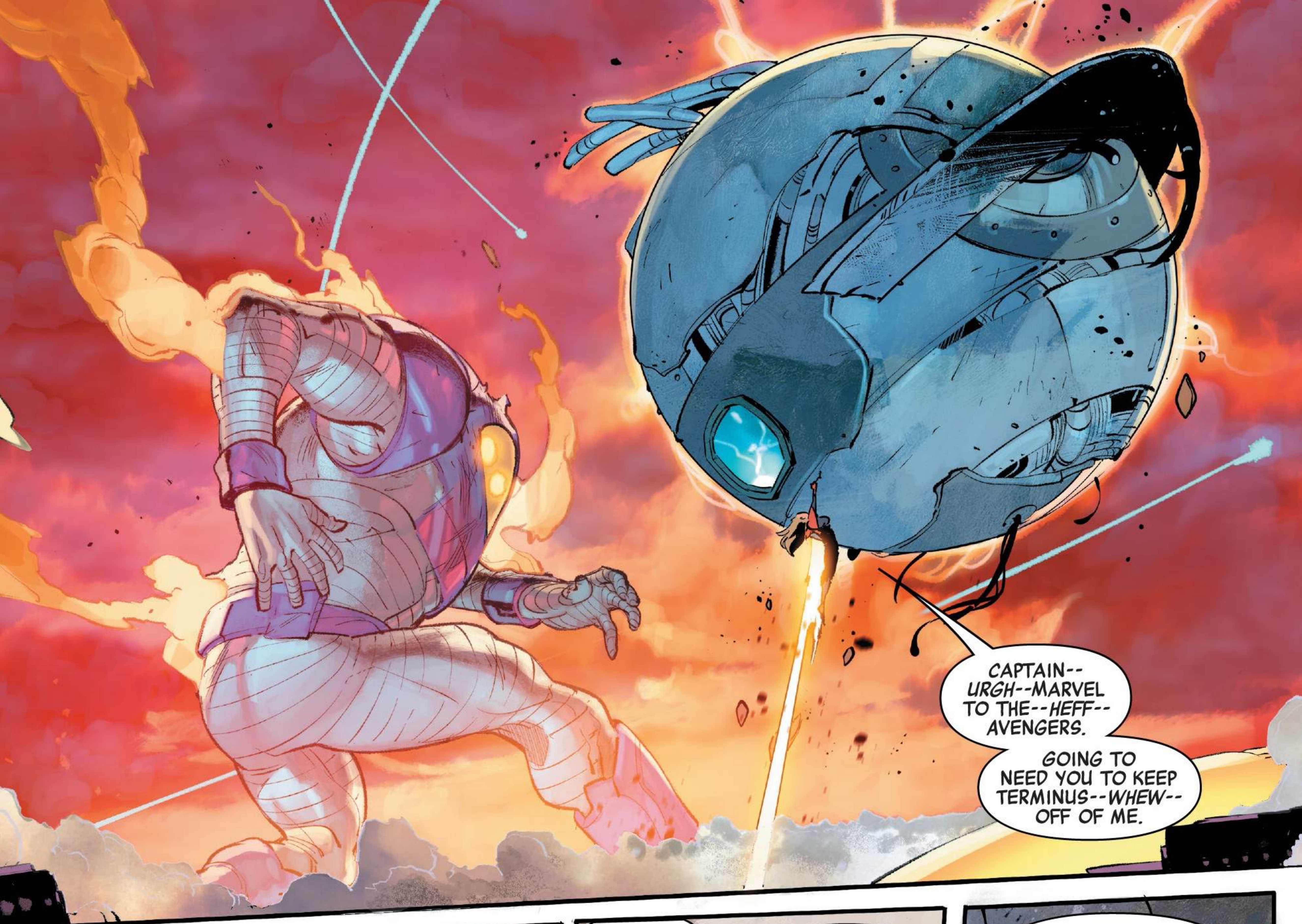


YOU
BET THERE
IS.



"THOR'S AWAKE."





CAPTAIN--
URGH--MARVEL
TO THE--HEFF--
AVENGERS.

GOING TO
NEED YOU TO KEEP
TERMINUS--WHEW--
OFF OF ME.



ON IT.

BLACK
PANTHER
TO CAPTAIN
MARVEL.

THE REACTOR
IS DANGEROUSLY
UNSTABLE.

YOU NEED
TO PUT DISTANCE
BETWEEN IT AND
YOURSELF
IMMEDIATELY.



I DROP THIS
AND A **BLACK HOLE**
EATS THE ADIRONDACKS,
T'CHALLA. INCLUDING
ALL OF YOU.

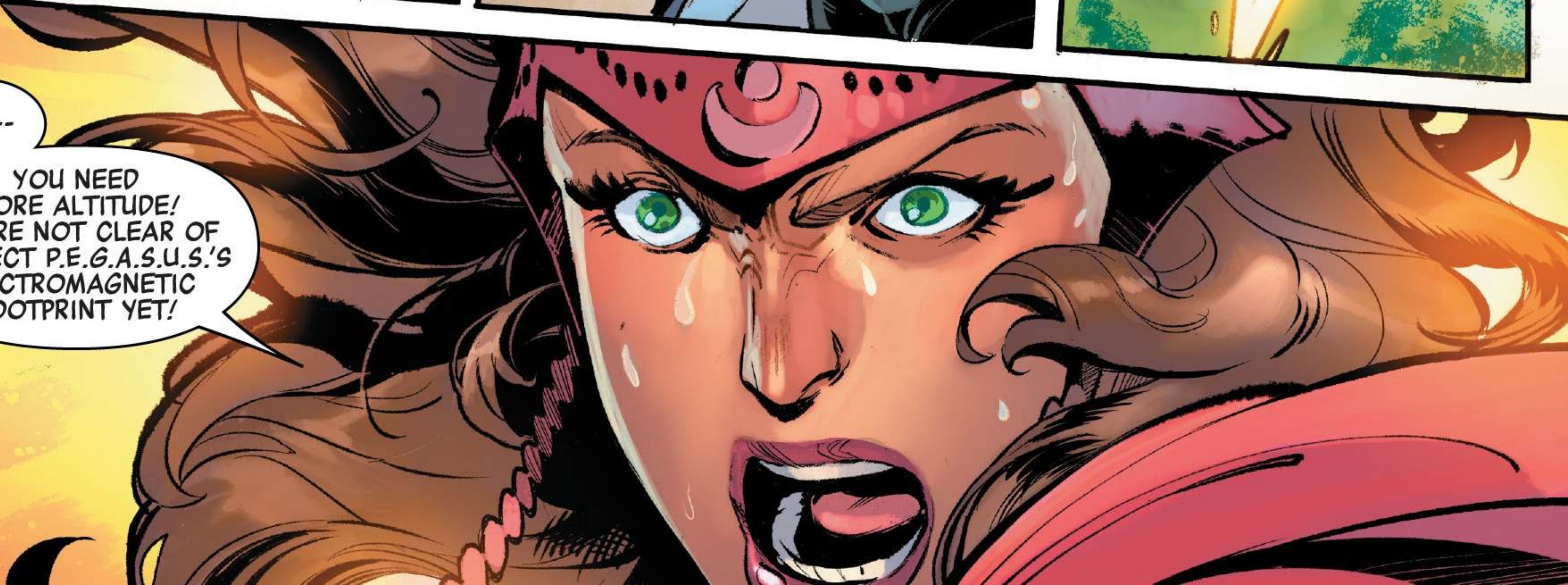
WANDA, ARE
YOU READY WITH
THAT SPELL YET?

BECAUSE
WE'RE OUT
OF TIME.



NO--

YOU NEED
MORE ALTITUDE!
YOU'RE NOT CLEAR OF
PROJECT P.E.G.A.S.U.S.'S
ELECTROMAGNETIC
FOOTPRINT YET!





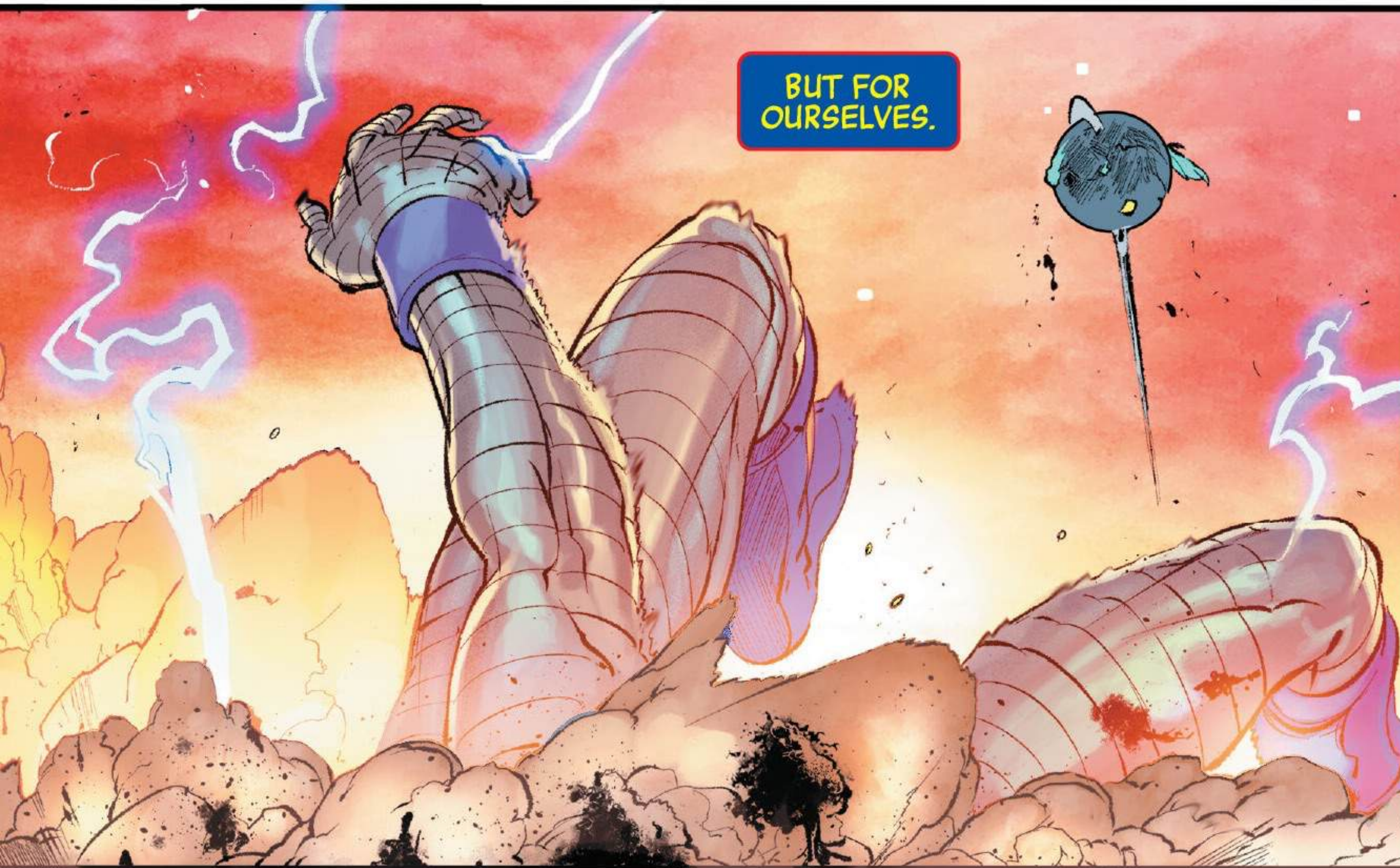
DAMN IT--

WE CALL OURSELVES THE AVENGERS.

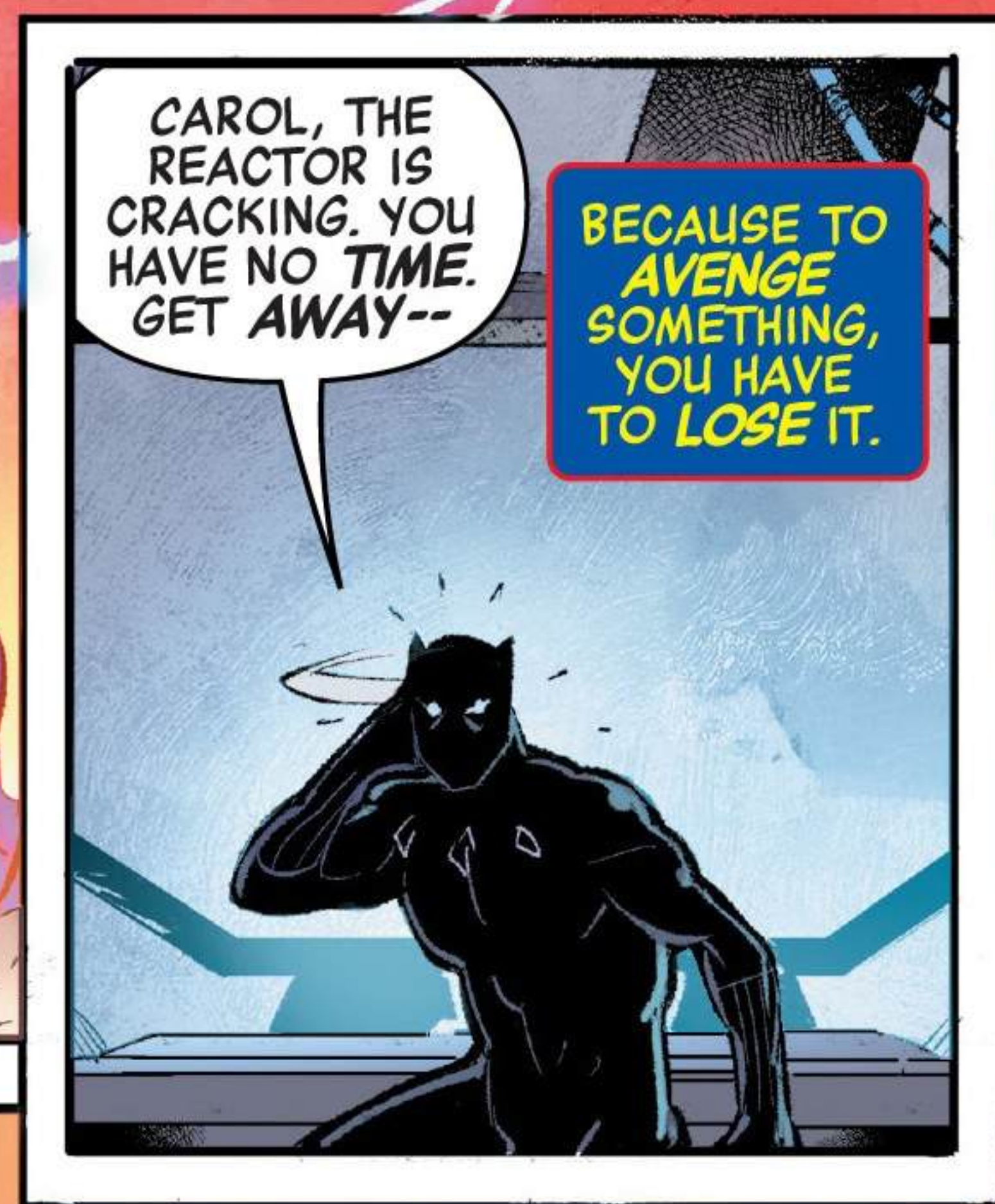
AS A WARNING.



NOT FOR OUR ENEMIES.



BUT FOR OURSELVES.



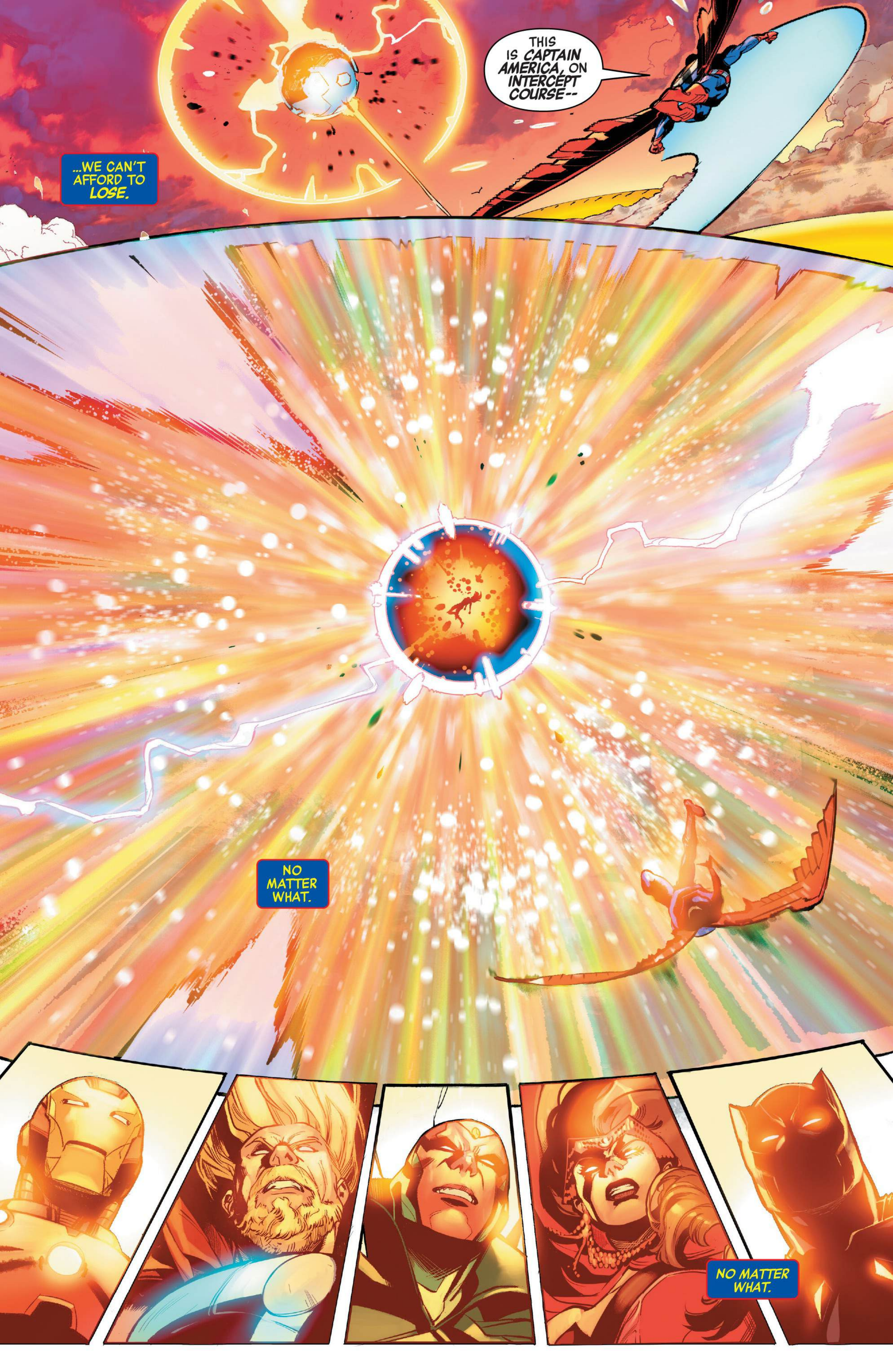
CAROL, THE REACTOR IS CRACKING. YOU HAVE NO TIME. GET AWAY--

BECAUSE TO AVENGE SOMETHING, YOU HAVE TO LOSE IT.



AND THIS WORLD, THIS EARTH, OUR EARTH...

CAST THE SPELL, WANDA!

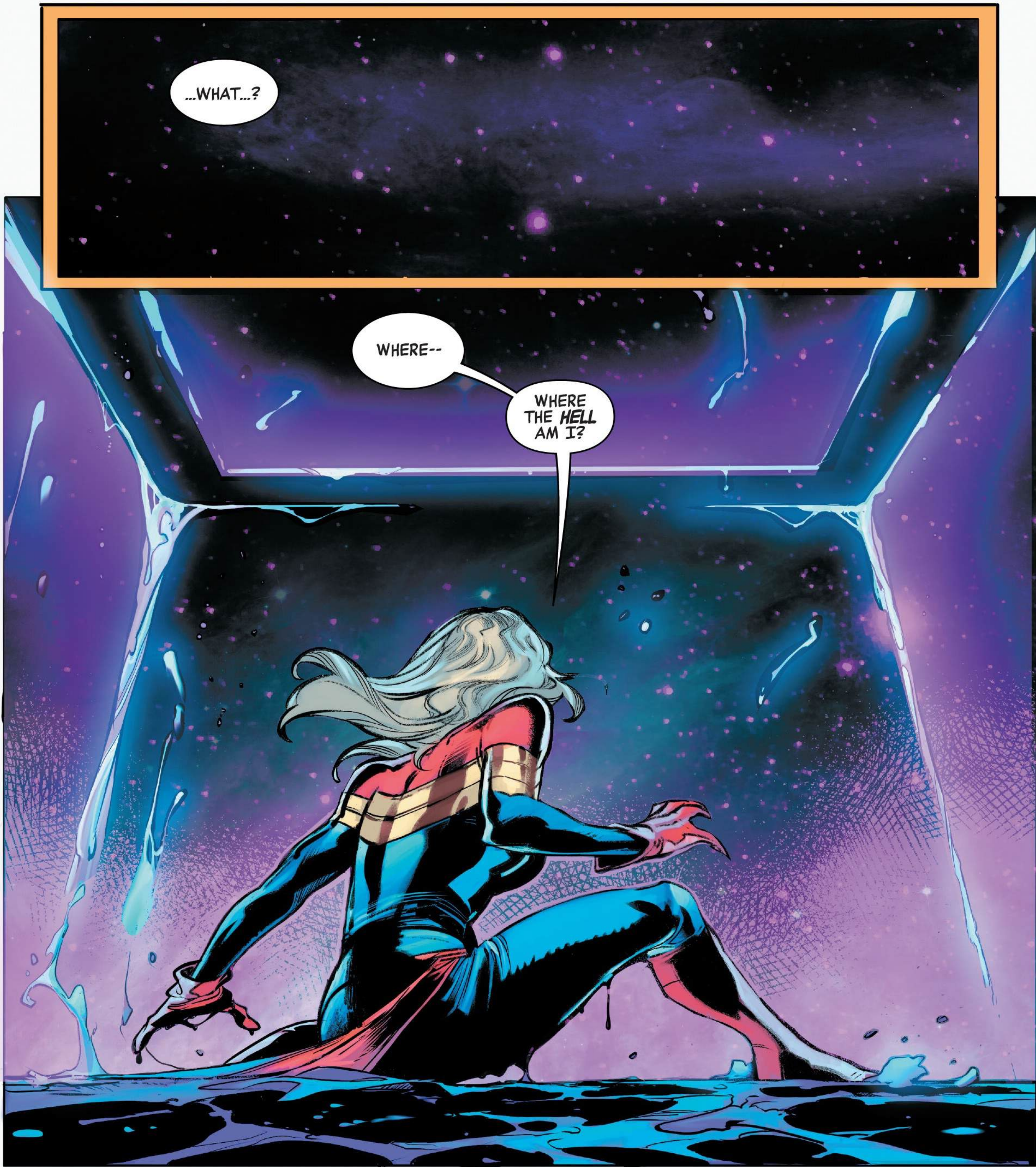


THIS IS CAPTAIN AMERICA, ON INTERCEPT COURSE--

...WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE.

NO MATTER WHAT.

NO MATTER WHAT.



NOWHEN. NOWHERE.
NULL-TIME, THE NOTHINGNESS
BETWEEN MOMENTS.
THE LAST REFUGE OF
KANG
THE CONQUEROR

WE MUST...
SPEAK.

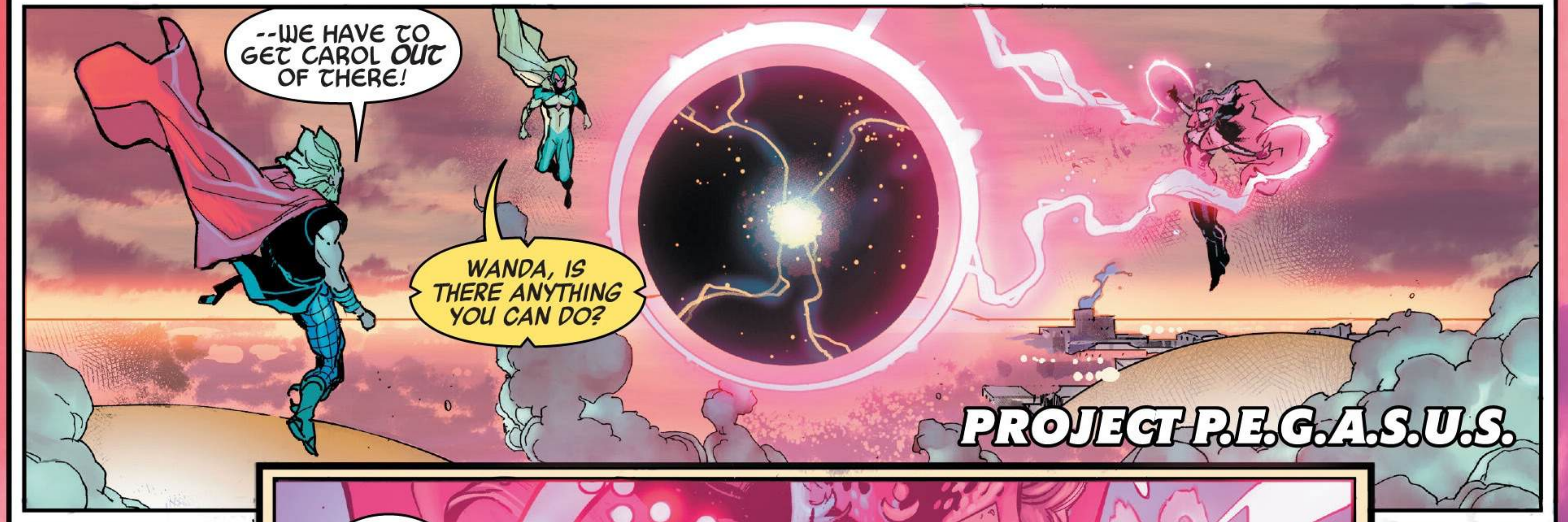
I...HAVE
A **WARNING**...
FOR YOU.





THE
AVENGERS

2



**MEXICO CITY.
NOW.**



←--REPORTED
HYDRA TERROR CELL
HAS TAKEN HOSTAGES
IN A DOWNTOWN
SKYSCRAPER-->*



←--WHO
CLAIM TO BE IN
POSSESSION
OF, AND WE QUOTE,
A "DEATH-SPORE
BIOWEAPON"...>



←--DEMANDING
THAT ELEMENTS OF
HYDRA LEADERSHIP
CURRENTLY HELD IN
FEDERAL PRISON BE
RELEASED...>

*TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH.

THEY'LL FOLD.
WE'RE TOO VISIBLE,
AND WE HAVE **FIFTY**
HOSTAGES.

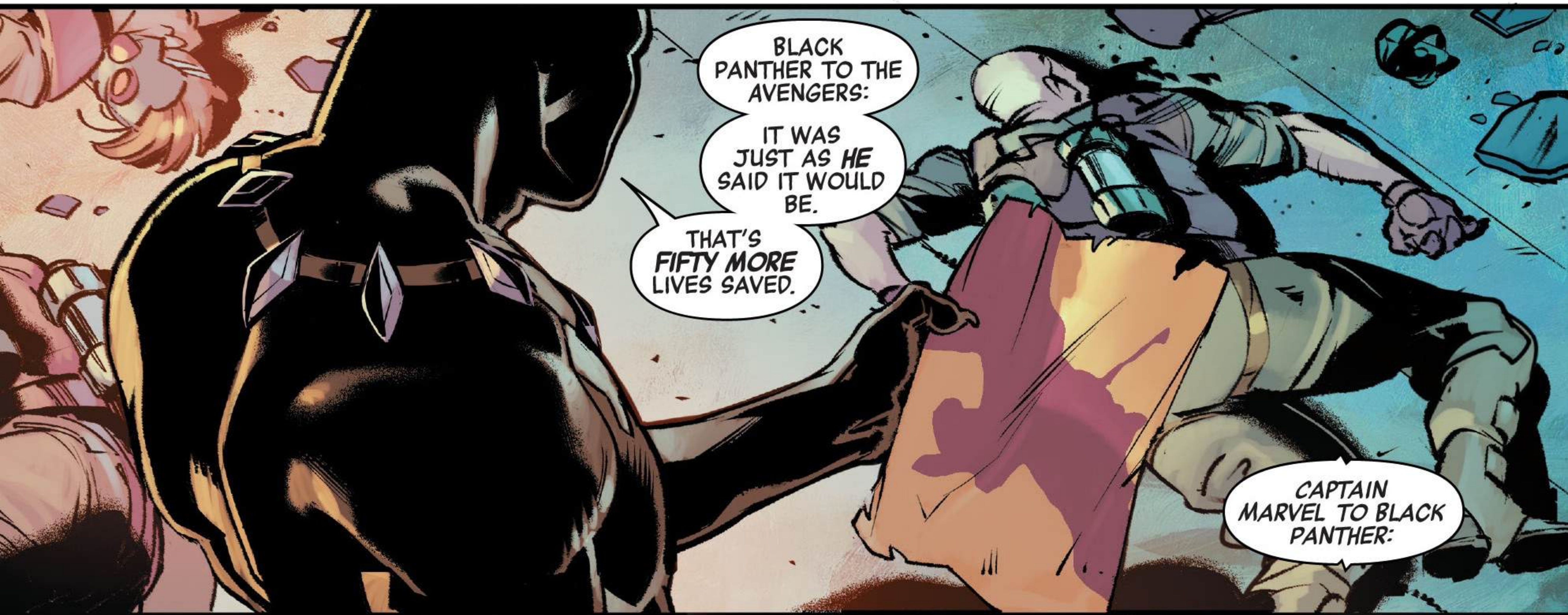
NO GOVERNMENT
WANTS **FIFTY CORPSES**
ON PRIME-TIME NEWS.
ESPECIALLY NOT WHEN
THEY'VE BEEN KILLED BY
DEATH-SPORES.

AND WHEN
WE RELEASE
THE SPORE **ANYWAY**
TO SHOW WHAT
HAPPENS WHEN YOU
MESS WITH
HYDRA--

CRASH!!!

BUT TELL
ME...

...JUST
WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN YOU MESS
WITH THE
AVENGERS?



NULL-TIME.
"THEN."

I'VE BEEN
WAITING. WAITING
FOR YOU. KNOWING
THAT THE SPACE-TIME
DISTORTION OF THE
BLACK HOLE WOULD
BRING YOU
TO ME.

I **REFUSE**
TO DIE UNTIL
I TELL YOU WHAT
YOU NEED TO
HEAR.

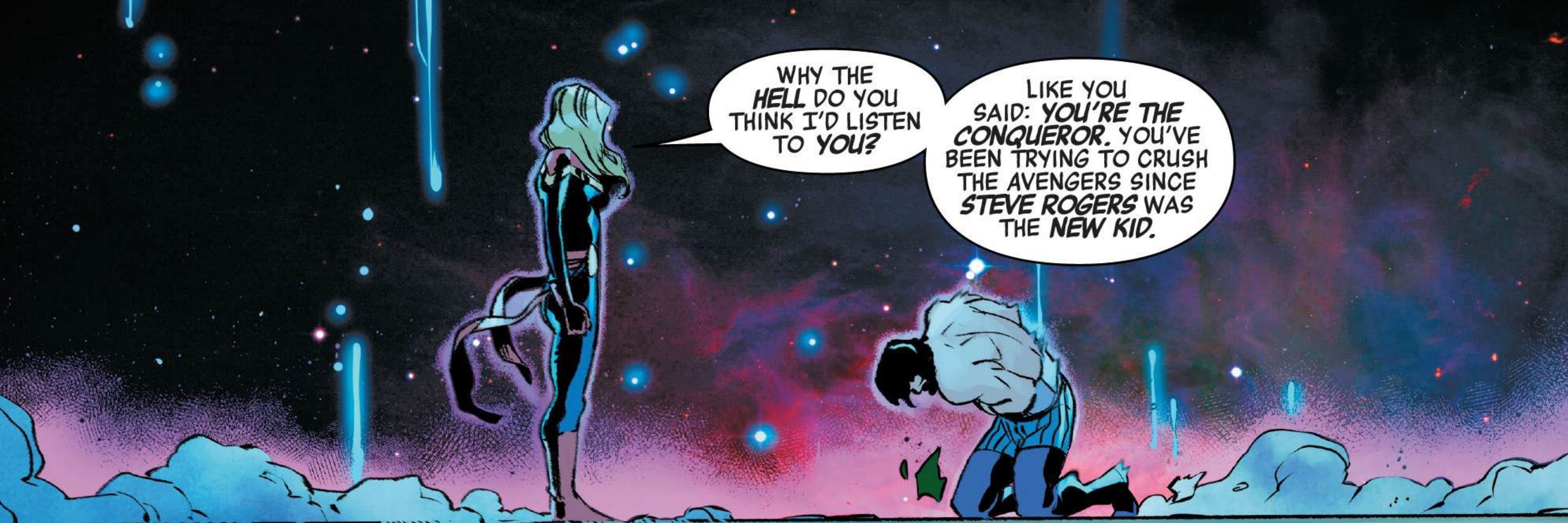


KANG?!

THE
CONQUEROR.

I HAVE
THINGS I
MUST **TELL**
YOU, CAPTAIN
MARVEL.





WHY THE HELL DO YOU THINK I'D LISTEN TO YOU?

LIKE YOU SAID: YOU'RE THE CONQUEROR. YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO CRUSH THE AVENGERS SINCE STEVE ROGERS WAS THE NEW KID.



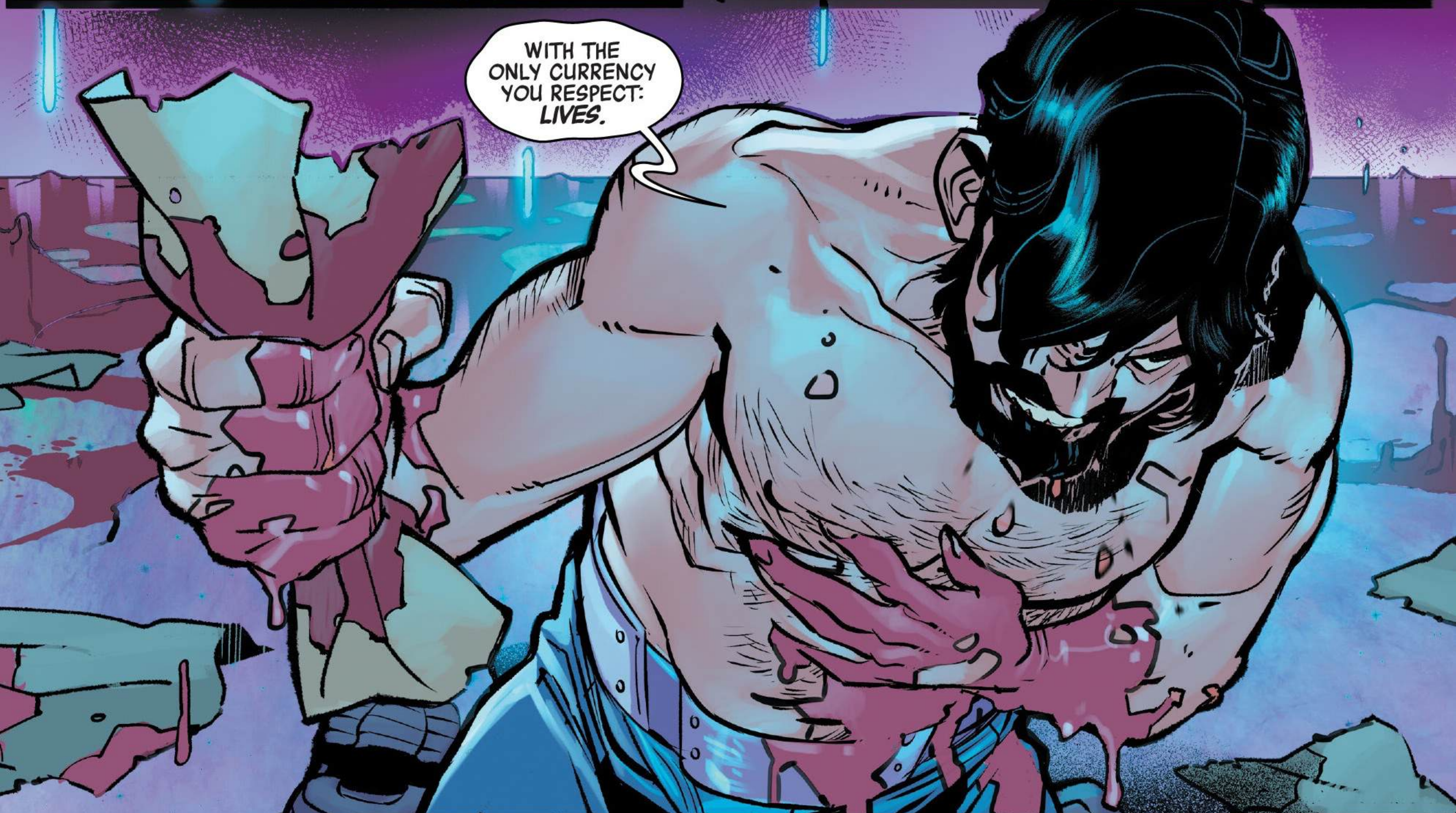
BECAUSE I WILL MAKE IT WORTH YOUR WHILE, CAPTAIN.



OH YEAH? WITH WHAT?

YOUR MONEY'S NO GOOD HERE, KANG.

...WHEREVER "HERE" IS...



WITH THE ONLY CURRENCY YOU RESPECT: LIVES.



CALL IT AN ACT OF GOOD FAITH, AVENGER.

I AM OFFERING YOU THE INFORMATION YOU NEED TO SAVE 1,000 PEOPLE IN THE NEXT 24 HOURS.

CENTRAL INDIA.
NOW.

THOR
TO THE
AVENGERS:

THE
TRAIN
HAS BEEN
STOPPED.

THOUGH IT
PAINS ME TO
MY CORE...

...THE
CONQUEROR'S
INFORMATION
HAS PROVED
SOUND.

"THEN."

I DON'T
BUY IT.

YOU'LL GIVE
US ALL THE FUTURE
KNOWLEDGE WE NEED TO
SAVE A **THOUSAND**
PEOPLE.

SINCE
WHEN DID **YOU**
START CARING ABOUT
WHETHER OR NOT THE
AVERAGE JOE LIVED
OR DIED?



I DON'T
CARE.

YOU KNOW
WHO I AM.
WHAT I HAVE
DONE.

I COULD
WATCH **TEN**
THOUSAND, A
HUNDRED
THOUSAND DIE IF
IT SERVED MY
PURPOSES.

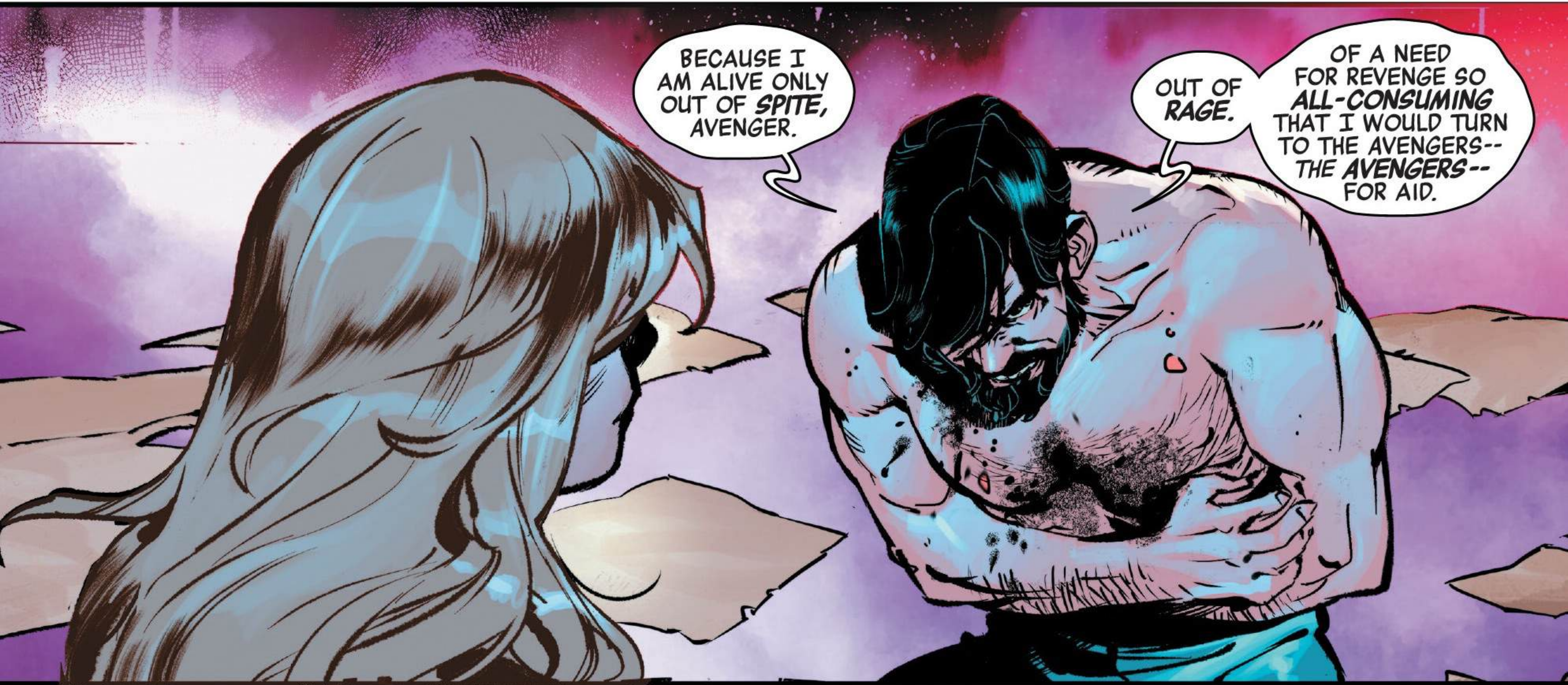
CALL THIS
WHAT IT IS:
A **BRIBE.**



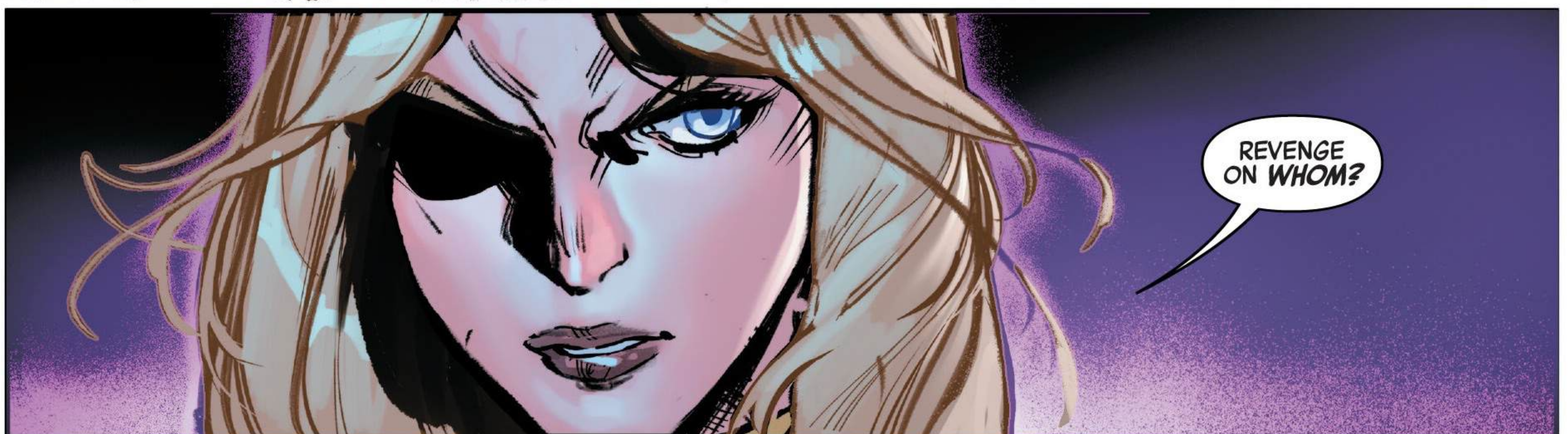
BECAUSE I
AM ALIVE ONLY
OUT OF **SPITE**,
AVENGER.

OUT OF
RAGE.

OF A NEED
FOR REVENGE SO
ALL-CONSUMING
THAT I WOULD TURN
TO THE AVENGERS--
THE **AVENGERS**--
FOR AID.



REVENGE
ON **WHOM?**



"MYRDDIN."

"A VILLAIN."

"ONE WHO,
ALONG WITH
HIS ENGINEERED
HEROES, THE
TWILIGHT COURT,
BESTED ME.*"

*IT HAPPENED IN *TIMELESS* 2022. --TOM



HEROES?

KANG, DID YOU JUST GET **BEAT DOWN** BY SOME **FUTURE SUPER HEROES**? AND NOW YOU THINK YOU CAN GET **US** TO FIGHT THEM FOR YOU?



≡HAKK
HAKK≡

NO, YOU BUFFOON.

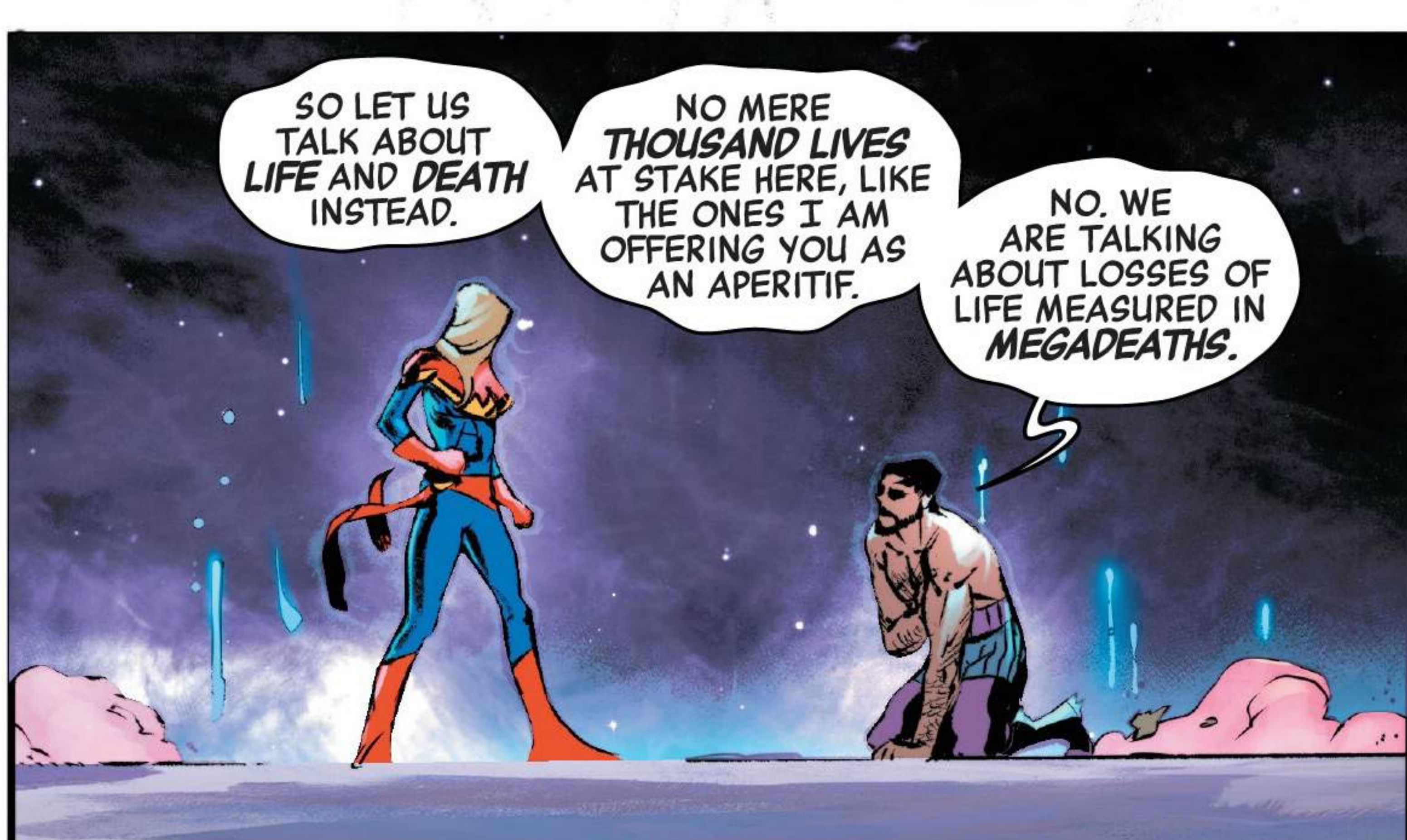
MYRDDIN AND I SOUGHT THE SAME **PRIZE**. THE **PRIZE**. THE GREATEST OF ALL.

ONE OF SUCH COSMIC IMPORT THAT, IF **HE** WERE TO GAIN IT, WOULD SPELL **DOOM** FOR ALL.



IF **I** CANNOT TAKE THE PRIZE, THEN I WILL ENSURE THAT **HE** CANNOT EITHER.

BUT I KNOW THAT A GRUDGE BETWEEN VILLAINS IS NO CONCERN OF **YOURS**, CAPTAIN.



SO LET US TALK ABOUT **LIFE AND DEATH** INSTEAD.

NO MERE **THOUSAND LIVES** AT STAKE HERE, LIKE THE ONES I AM OFFERING YOU AS AN **APERITIF**.

NO. WE ARE TALKING ABOUT LOSSES OF LIFE MEASURED IN **MEGADEATHS**.



LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT WHAT'S **COMING**, AVENGER.

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THE **TRIBULATION** EVENTS.

**DUBLIN AIRSPACE.
NOW.**

WE'VE
LOST **BOTH**
ENGINES!

MAYDAY,
MAYDAY, THIS IS
FLIGHT 902, AND
WE ARE **GOING**
DOWN--

GET
EVERYONE BUCKLED
DOWN **NOW**, THIS IS
GOING TO BE
ROUGH--

--WOULD ASK
ALL PASSENGERS
TO REMAIN CALM
AND BRACE--

FLIGHT 902,
THIS IS **IRON**
MAN.

IRON
MAN?!

AND THIS
IS THE **VISION**.
WE HAVE HEARD
OF YOUR
PERIL--



--AND
WE ARE HERE
FOR YOU.

SO SIT BACK AND
FLY THE FRIENDLY
SKIES WITH
AIR AVENGERS.

"THEN."

THINGS
HAVE BEEN SET
IN MOTION,
CAPTAIN.

TRIALS FALLING
INTO PLACE. TRIALS
TO TEST THE STRONGEST
OF HEROES. FOR MAKE NO
MISTAKE, THE TIMES
THAT ARE COMING WILL
REQUIRE **HEROES**.

TRIALS.
TRIBULATIONS.

TRIBULATION
EVENTS.

CATAclysmic
MASS-CASUALTY
EVENTS THAT WILL
BEFALL THE PLANET.
EVENTS THAT **I** MUST
PREPARE YOU FOR
AS WELL AS I
CAN.

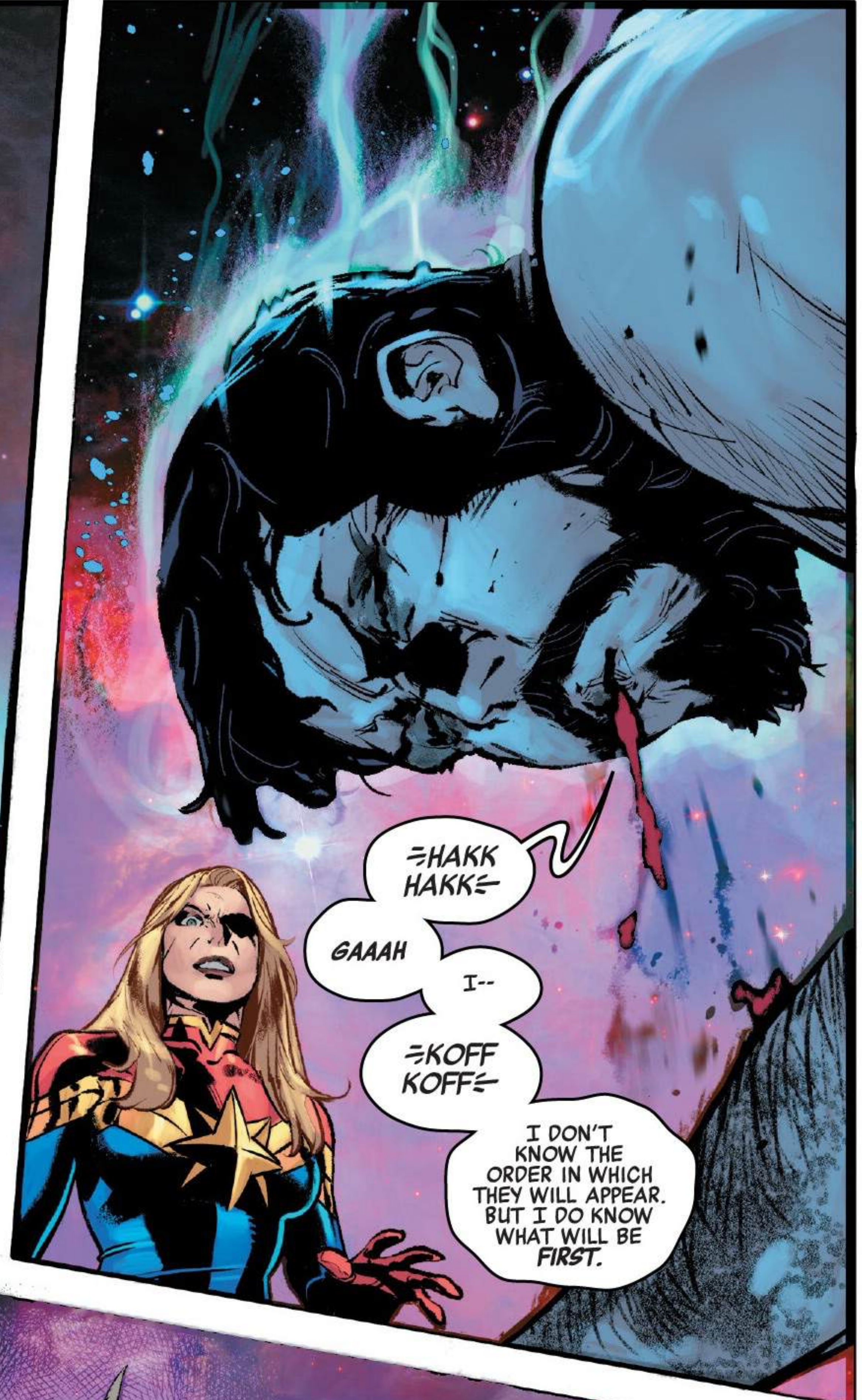
KANG,
YOU'RE
KILLING
YOURSELF
WITH
THIS.

LET ME
HELP YOU
FIRST--

**THERE
IS NO
TIME!**



THE KING
OF MAGIC. THE
DEATH MOON. THE
CANNIBAL CULTURE.
THE ENDLESS
NIGHT. AND THE
OTHERS.



=HAKK
HAKK=
GAAAH
I--
=KOFF
KOFF=

I DON'T
KNOW THE
ORDER IN WHICH
THEY WILL APPEAR.
BUT I DO KNOW
WHAT WILL BE
FIRST.

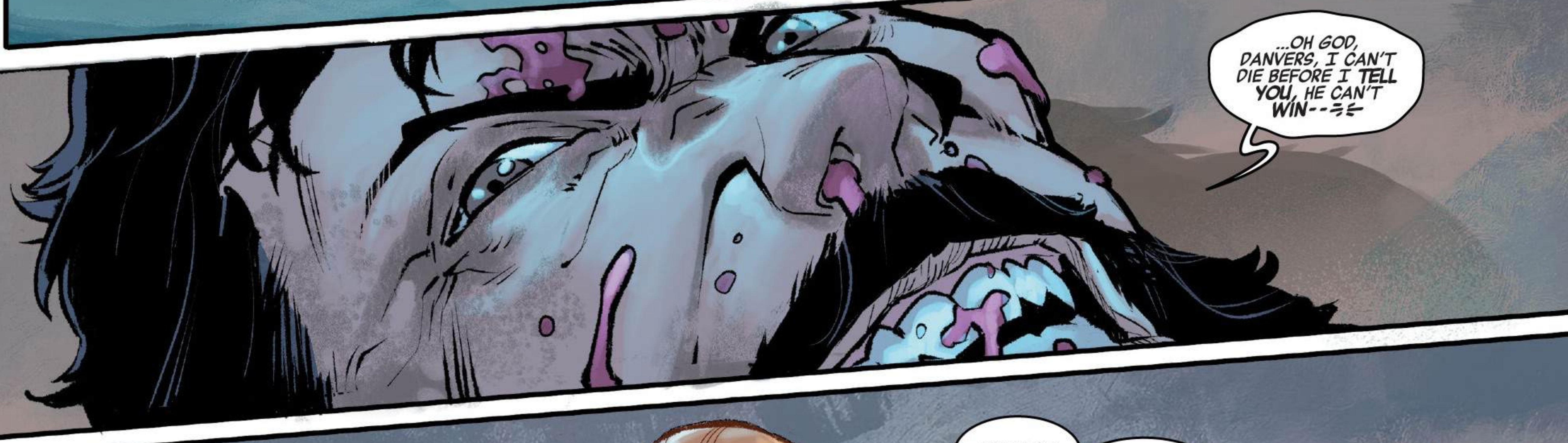


YOU'VE
REOPENED
YOUR WOUND,
YOU IDIOT--

THE...
IMPOSSIBLE
CITY...

...AND THE
TERRORS IT
BRINGS WITH
IT...

...NO...



...OH GOD,
DANVERS, I CAN'T
DIE BEFORE I TELL
YOU, HE CAN'T
WIN--==



KANG!

KANG!

**OUTSIDE PITTSBURGH.
NOW.**

WHOO.

OKAY.
ONLY 180
MILES TO GO.
YOU CAN DO
THIS.

PEOPLE
ARE COUNTING
ON YOU. LET'S
GO.

I
WOULDN'T.

WHAT--?

I KNOW
YOU'RE TIRED,
PAUL.

ANYONE
WOULD BE. YOU'RE
PULLING DOUBLE SHIFTS
TO DELIVER MEDICAL
SUPPLIES. YOU WANT
TO *HELP* PEOPLE.

BUT I ALSO
KNOW THAT IF
YOU GET ON THE ROAD
LIKE THIS, WITH THOSE
PILLS IN YOU, YOU'RE
NOT GOING TO HELP
ANYONE.



CAP?

BUT
HOW--?



YOUR FOCUS
STARTS TO SLIP
AS YOU GET INTO
ZANESVILLE. YOU
FADE OUT FOR A
MOMENT--

--JUST
A MOMENT,
BUT YOU KNOW
AS WELL AS I
DO THAT A
MOMENT'S ALL
IT TAKES--

--AND
YOU VEER
INTO ONCOMING
TRAFFIC.



YOU DIE,
PAUL.

AND
SO DO 43
PEOPLE IN THE
BUS YOU HIT.

SO I THINK
YOU'D BETTER
HAND ME THOSE
KEYS.



BUT--

--PEOPLE ARE
COUNTING ON ME,
CAP! THE HOSPITALS
IN COLUMBUS ARE
OVERWHELMED--

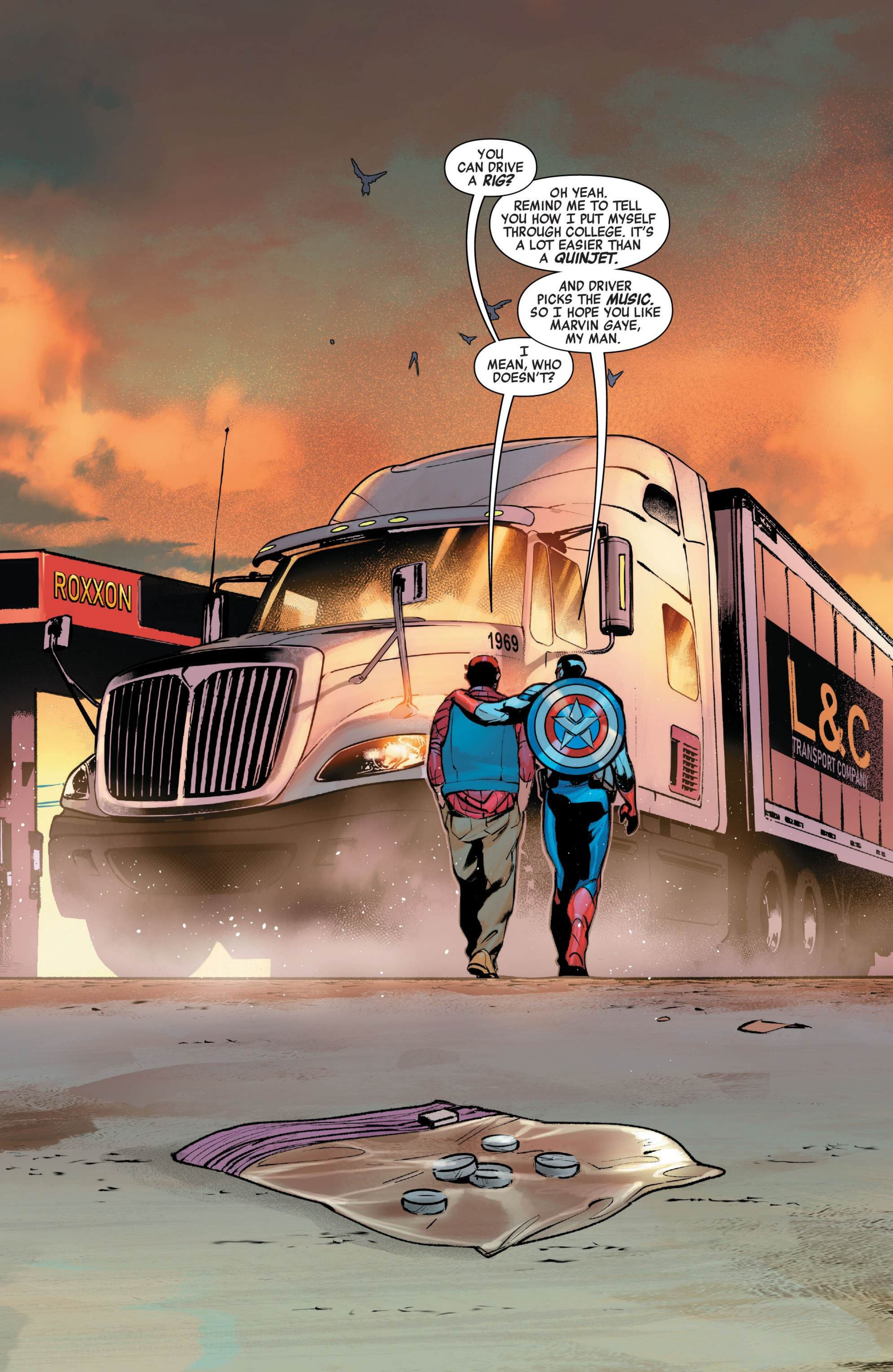
IF I DON'T
GET THESE SUPPLIES
TO THEM, PEOPLE ARE
GOING TO DIE!



I
KNOW.

THAT'S WHY
YOU'RE GOING TO
GET SOME REST IN
SHOTGUN, AND
I'M GOING TO
DRIVE.

LET'S HIT
THE ROAD,
PARTNER.



YOU
CAN DRIVE
A *RIG*?

OH YEAH.
REMIND ME TO TELL
YOU HOW I PUT MYSELF
THROUGH COLLEGE. IT'S
A LOT EASIER THAN
A *QUINJET*.

AND DRIVER
PICKS THE *MUSIC*.
SO I HOPE YOU LIKE
MARVIN GAYE,
MY MAN.

I
MEAN, WHO
DOESN'T?

ROXXON

1969

L&C
TRANSPORT COMPANY



NEW YORK CITY.

THE JARVIS LOUNGE.

HO!

ASGARDIAN
THEWS HAVE
SUCCEEDED WHERE
THE ENGINEERING
OF MAN FAILED!

WELL
DONE,
THOR.

ACCORDING
TO REPORTS
FROM AROUND THE
WORLD, OUR *OTHER*
MISSIONS HAVE BEEN
SUCCESSFUL AS
WELL.

ONE
THOUSAND
DEATHS.
AVERTED.

ALL
CONGRATULATION
SHOULD GO TO
YOU, WANDA.

WITHOUT
YOUR SWIFT *PORTALS*,
OUR TASK WOULD HAVE
FAILED ERE IT HAD
BEGUN.

THANK YOU,
THOR. BUT IF WE
ARE TO *CONTINUE*
TO ACT AT SUCH A
PACE, WE WILL NEED
TO FIND A *BETTER*
TRANSPORTATION
SOLUTION.

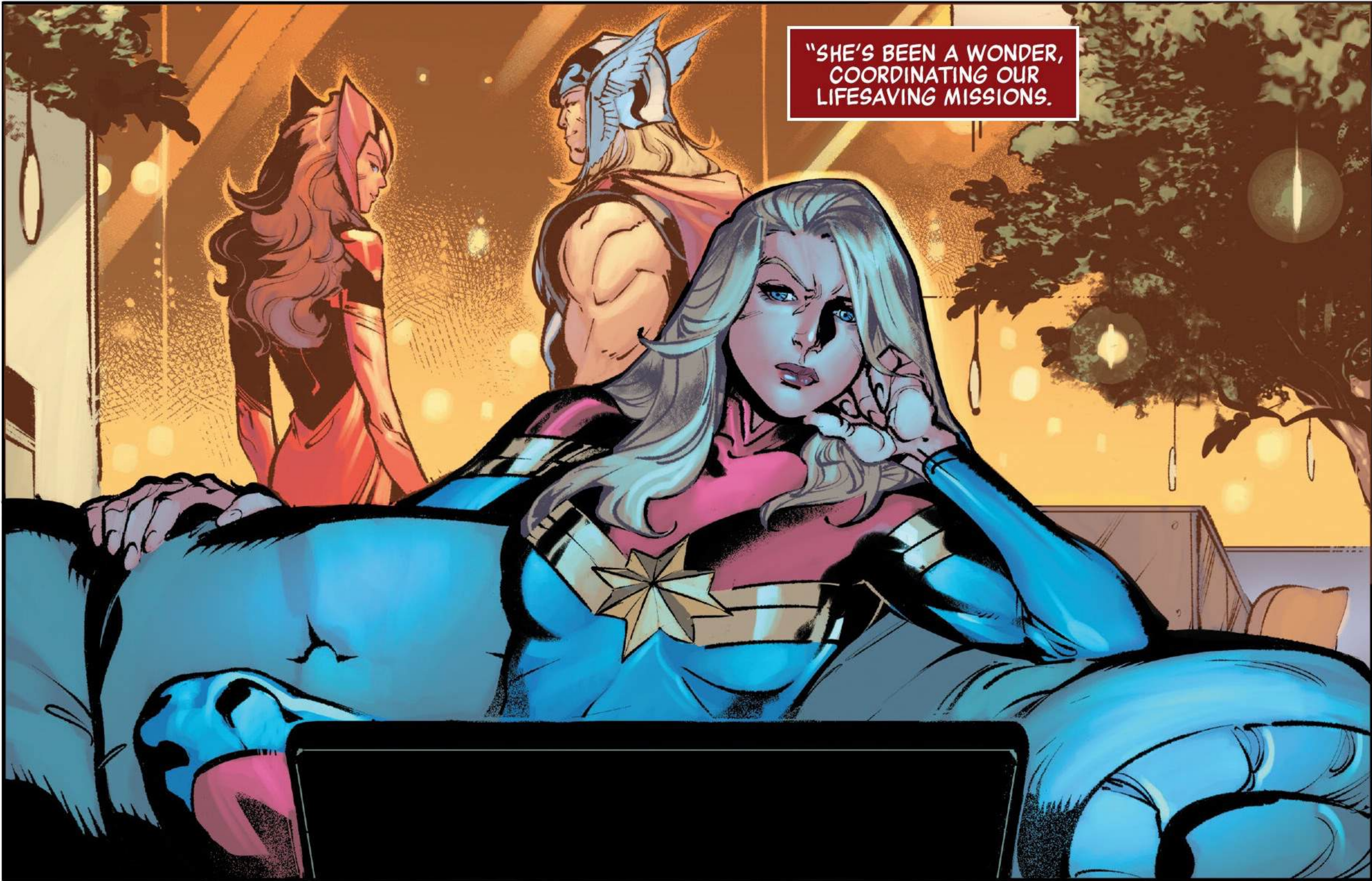
ACTING AS
CONCIERGE WHEN
I AM NEEDED IN THE
FIELD IS A POOR USE
OF OUR *RESOURCES*.

Hmm, YOU
ARE INDEED
CORRECT.

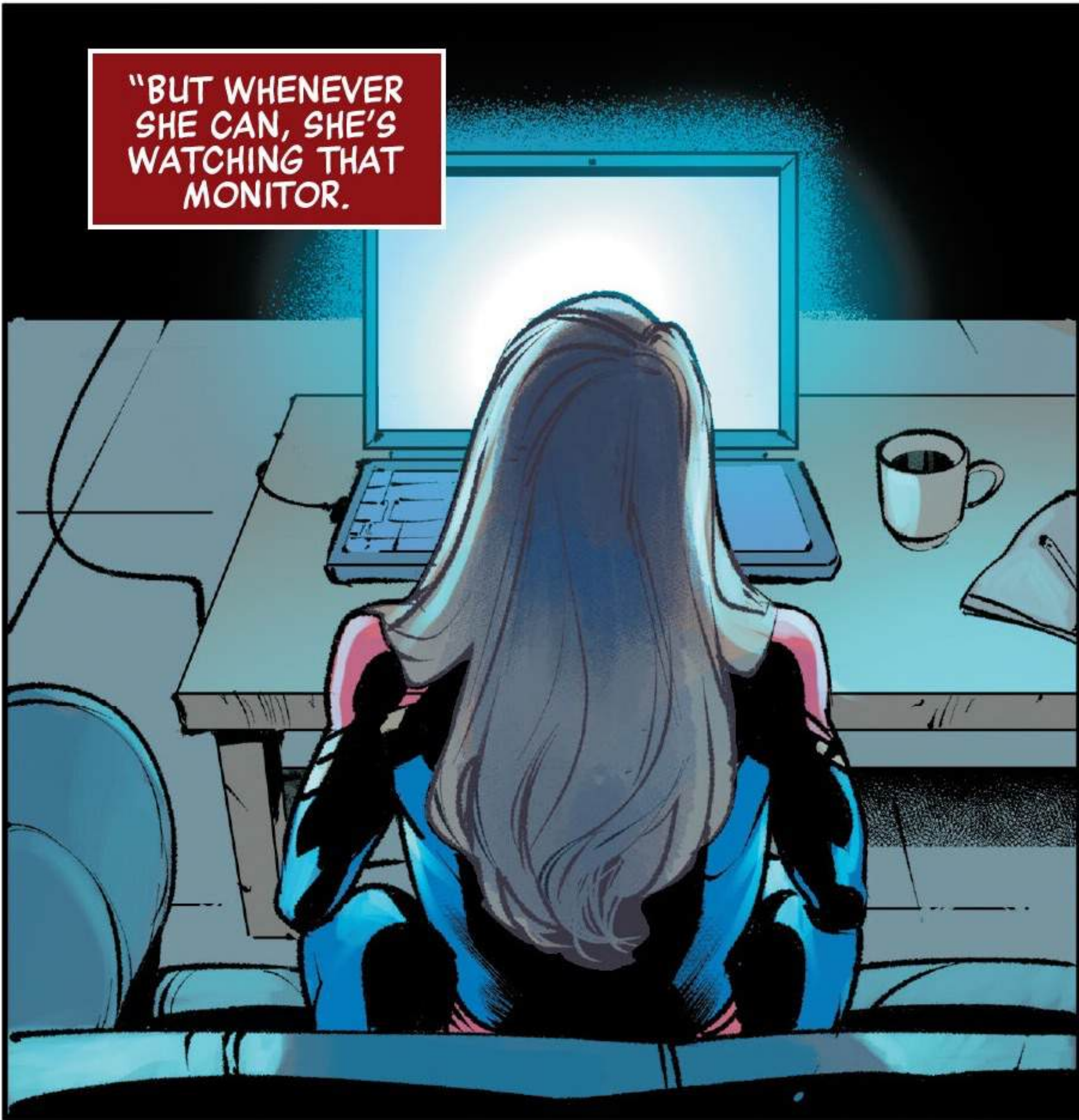
MAYHAP
SOMETHING
MIGHT BE DONE
WITH THE
BIFROST...

AND
WHAT OF OUR
CAPTAIN?

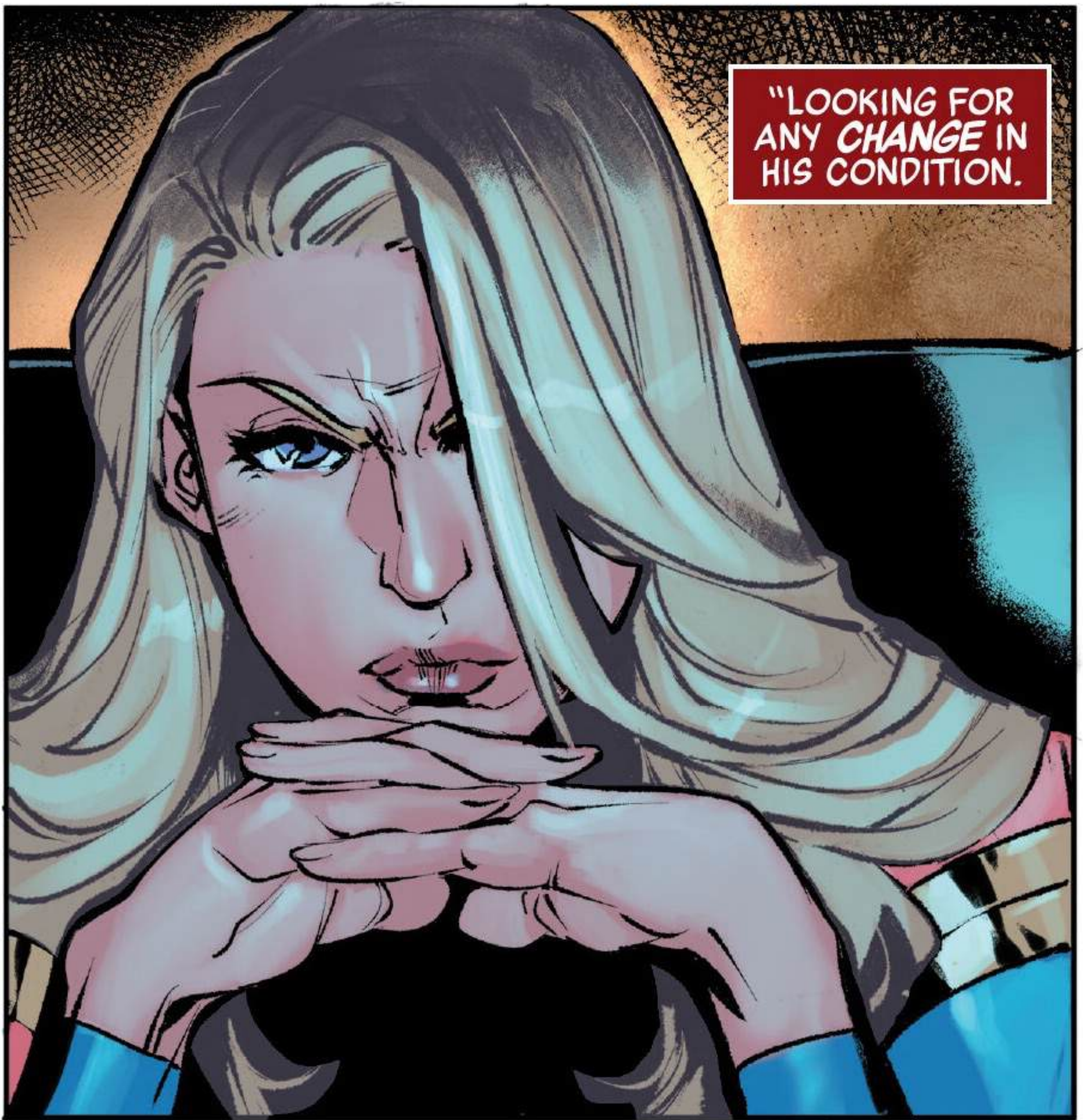
SHE
WATCHES, AND
SHE WAITS.



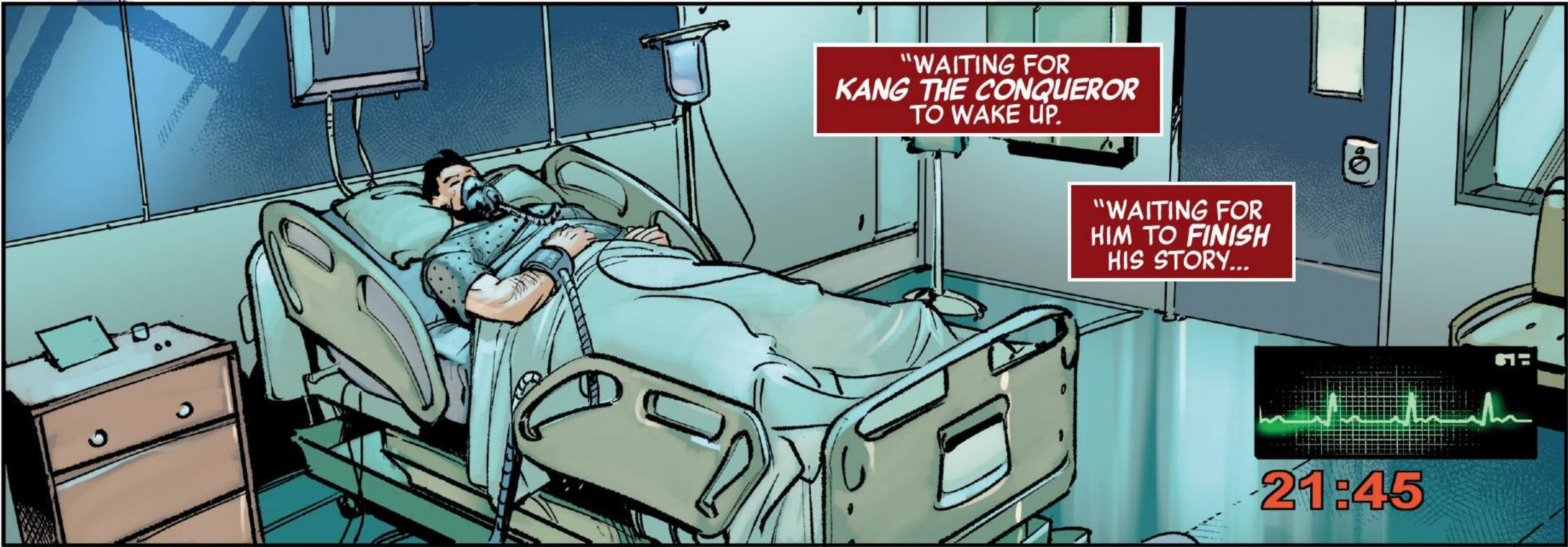
"SHE'S BEEN A WONDER,
COORDINATING OUR
LIFESAVING MISSIONS.



"BUT WHENEVER
SHE CAN, SHE'S
WATCHING THAT
MONITOR.



"LOOKING FOR
ANY *CHANGE* IN
HIS CONDITION.



"WAITING FOR
KANG THE CONQUEROR
TO WAKE UP.

"WAITING FOR
HIM TO *FINISH*
HIS STORY....



21:45

**EARTH ORBIT.
NOW.**

"...BEFORE
HIS STORIES..."

"...FINISH US."

THE IMPOSSIBLE CITY.



EARTH ORBIT.

A NEW
WORLD.

FILLED
WITH SUCH
CITIES.

THE IMPOSSIBLE CITY.
LAIR OF THE ASHEN COMBINE,
ACCOMPLISHED INTERDIMENSIONAL CITYSLAYERS.

LET US FIND
INTERESTING
WAYS TO KILL
THEM.

VATICAN CITY.

**IDOL ALABASTER
IS THE FIRST TO
CHOOSE.**



**SHE IS THE
MOST EAGER OF
THE COMBINE.**

**SHE KNOWS WELL WHAT
SHE DESIRES. SHE KNOWS
WHAT GIVES HER POWER
AND HOW TO FIND IT.**



WORSHIP.





**TORONTO,
CANADA.**

**THE
CITYSMITH
IS NEXT.**



**HE CHOOSES
HIS CITIES
NOT FOR WHAT
THEY ARE.**

**RATHER,
HE IS AN
ARTIST.**



**HE SEES THE BRICK, THE MORTAR,
THE STONE AND GLASS AND STEEL
AND PIPE AND, ABOVE ALL,
THE PEOPLE AS HIS MATERIALS.**

**THE CITYSMITH
CHOOSES HIS PREY FOR
WHAT THEY CAN BE.**

**WHAT HE
CAN MAKE
OF THEM.**

**MANILA,
THE PHILIPPINES.**

**LORD ENNUI IS A
CONNOISSEUR.**

**HE SEEKS OUT
LIFE. CITIES THAT
NEVER SLEEP.**

**THE GREATEST DENSITY
OF LIVING, THINKING
MINDS, THE HUSTLE AND
BUSTLE OF URBAN LIFE.**

**HOW HE HATES IT,
WHEN HE CAN BE
BOtherED TO
HATE AT ALL.**

**AND SO
HE BRINGS
THE GIFT OF
RESPIRE, OF
STILLNESS.**

OF PEACE.

**SYDNEY,
AUSTRALIA.**

THE DEAD IS AS
SIMPLE AS THEY ARE
INSCRUTABLE.

THEY'RE DRAWN TO THE
BURIAL GROUNDS OF
CIVILIZATION, IN WHATEVER
SHAPES THEY TAKE.

WHERE LORD ENNUI
SEEKS OUT LIFE TO
QUIET, THE DEAD STIRS
UP THE **ALREADY QUIET.**

GIVES THEM
LIFE. GIVES THEM
A VOICE.

AND GIVES THEM
THE CHANCE TO
REVENGE THEMSELVES
ON THOSE WHO HAVE
FORGOTTEN THEM.



**HELSINKI,
FINLAND.**

ALONE AMONG
THE ASHEN COMBINE,
MERIDIAN DIADEM IS
INDISCRIMINATE.

SHE IS NOT AN **ARTIST**, LIKE THE CITYSMITH.
SHE HAS NO **PHILOSOPHY**, ESOTERIC AS IT
MIGHT BE, LIKE THE DEAD OR LORD ENNUI.
SHE DOES NOT SEEK OUT A **SPECIFIC**
SUSTENANCE, LIKE IDOL ALABASTER.

NO.

MERIDIAN DIADEM
DESIRES ONLY TO
CONSUME--TO
CONSUME **THINKING**,
INTELLIGENT BEINGS.

TO IMPRISON.

**NEW YORK CITY,
UNITED STATES.**

SADDLE UP,
AVENGERS--

**THE JARVIS
LOUNGE.**

--THE
WORLD'S IN
PERIL!

WE'VE GOT HOT
SPOTS IN *MANILA,*
HELSINKI, *TORONTO,*
SYDNEY AND THE
VATICAN.

EVERYBODY,
PICK ONE--

CAROL,
WAIT.

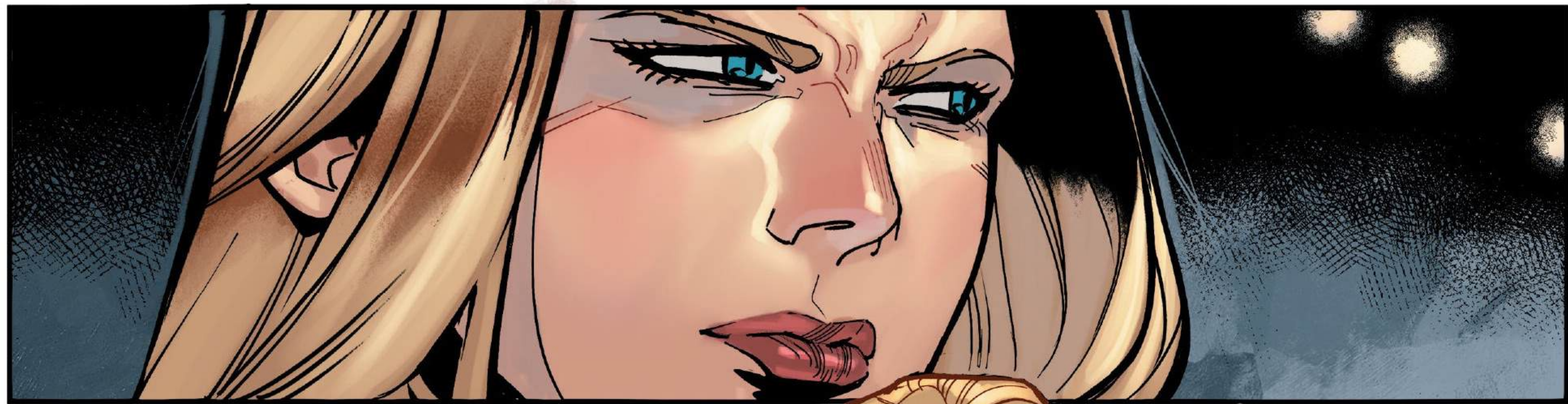
WE KNOW *NOTHING*
ABOUT WHAT'S
HAPPENING. WHAT
WE FACE.

PEOPLE
ARE *DYING,*
T'CHALLA.

I AM
AWARE OF
THAT, SAM.

BUT *MORE* WILL
DIE, INCLUDING
OURSELVES, IF WE
DO NOT WIN.

I
AM NOT
AFRAID OF
DYING.
THE ONLY
THING I AM
AFRAID OF IS
LOSING.





OKAY. NOTHING IN THE AVENGERS ARCHIVES, NOTHING FROM THE OLD S.H.I.E.L.D. FILES, NOR S.W.O.R.D., A.R.M.O.R., W.A.N.D. OR ANY OF THE ACRONYM GANGS ON ANY OF THESE JOKERS. TOTAL UNSUBS.

VISION, YOU'VE GOT ALL THE RAW DATA I HAVE ACCESS TO--VIDEO, NEWS FEEDS, ANYTHING HITTING THE INTERNET--

THANK YOU, TONY. THREAT EVALUATION:

MANILA. MASSIVE ENTROPIC ATTACK.



HELSINKI. AN ARMY OF ENEMY COMBATANTS-- WHO APPEAR TO BE TAKING PRISONERS.

TORONTO. A...FOR LACK OF A BETTER TERM, METROKINETIC ATTACK.

VATICAN CITY. HIGH-LEVEL PSI-EVENT.

SYDNEY. GHOSTS.

LOW EARTH ORBIT. THEIR BASE OF OPERATIONS.

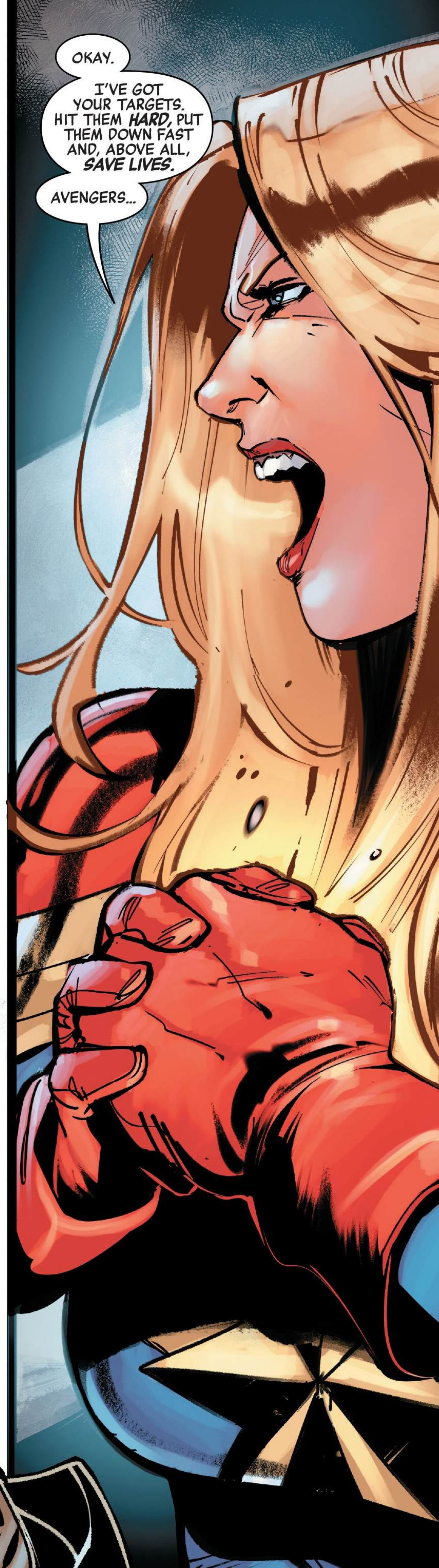
T'CHALLA?

LITTLE INFORMATION, ALL TOLD.

BUT EVEN A SMALL BLADE CAN KILL.

AND NOW WE ARE ARMED.

CALL THE PLAY.



OKAY.

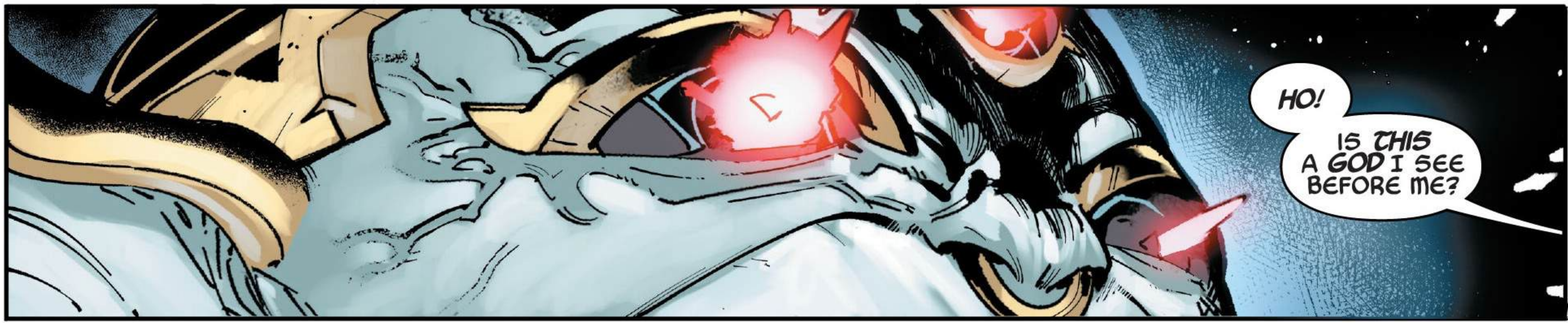
I'VE GOT YOUR TARGETS. HIT THEM **HARD**, PUT THEM DOWN FAST AND, ABOVE ALL, **SAVE LIVES**.

AVENGERS...

"...ASSEMBLE."

VATICAN CITY.

yes. worship the living godhead.
worship me.



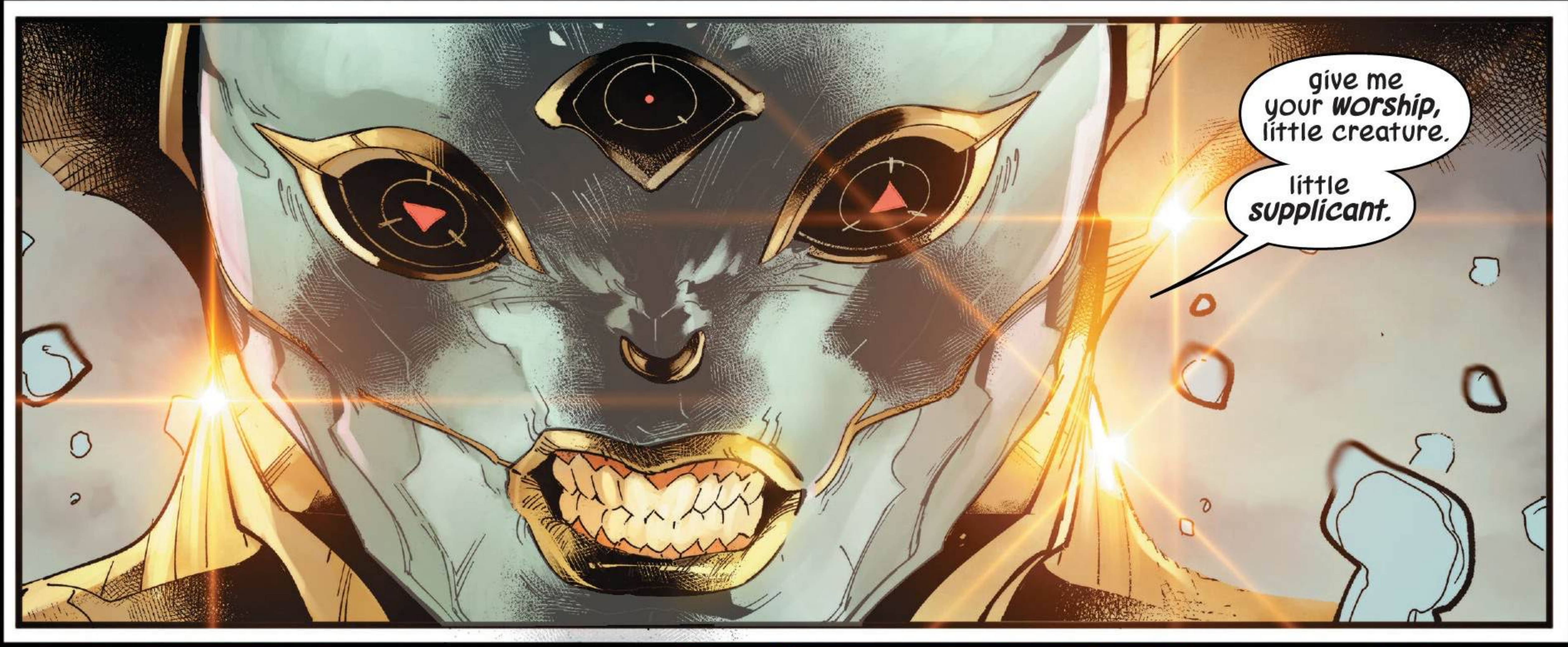
HO!
IS THIS
A GOD I SEE
BEFORE ME?



FOR I
KNOW THE
WAYS OF
GODS.

WORSHIP IS
COURTED WITH
BLESSINGS...OR
THREATS.

NOT
STOLEN WITH
PSYCHIC
TRICKS.



give me
your **worship**,
little creature.

little
supplicant.



SO IS
IT TO BE
BLESSINGS,
CREATURE? OR
THREATS?

IN
EITHER
CASE:

I
SAY **THEE**
NAY.

TORONTO.

SUCH
TEXTURE,
SUCH *SHAPE*, THE
FABRIC OF A
CITY...

...THE WARP
AND WEFT OF
LIFE AND LOVE
AND LAUGHTER
AND--

--TERROR, FOR
THAT *FINISHING*
TOUCH.

HMM.

HMM!

EXCELLENT.
EXCELLENT. A FINE
BEGINNING FOR THE
GREATER WHOLE. THIS
CITY IS *WONDERFUL*
MATERIAL.

I DON'T KNOW, PAL.
ALIEN SUPER-TERRORISM
AS AN ART FORM?

IT'S A LITTLE,
WHAT DO THEY
SAY...

...PEDESTRIAN?

A
CRITIC?

SHOW
YOURSELF!

THAT'S THE
THING ABOUT PLANET
EARTH, FRIEND, AND I
SHOULD KNOW:

EVERYONE'S
A CRITIC.

SYDNEY.

THERE'S
FEAR HERE.



THERE
ALWAYS IS
WITH THE
UNQUIET
DEAD.

BUT
MORE THAN
THAT...



...THERE'S
PAIN.





I AM NO STRANGER TO PAIN. NO STRANGER TO GHOSTS.

AND NOR ARE YOU, AS I CAN SEE.

YOU'VE LET BOTH MASTER YOU.



BUT I AM THE SCARLET WITCH, AND I HAVE MASTERED MY PAIN, MY GHOSTS AND MUCH WORSE BESIDES.

AND I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO HARM THESE PEOPLE.

HELSINKI.

CRIMINALS,
CHILDREN.

ALL OF THEM
CRIMINALS.

CRIMINALS
IN NEED OF
CORRECTION.

CORRECTION.

FOR WHAT
CRIME?

ANY
NUMBER.

CRIMINALITY
IS INGRAINED
INTO THE
ORGANIC.

THEY KILL,
THEY STEAL, THEY
LIE...AND IF THEY
HAVE NOT, THEN
THEY WILL.

I CORRECT
THEM, AND THE
BEST, THE VERY
BEST OF THEM,
BECOME MY
CHILDREN.

CHILDREN.

I AM ALSO
A SYNTHETIC.
AND I AM ALSO
A PARENT.

AND YOU
OFFEND ME TO
THE CORE OF MY
VERY BEING.



MANILA.

≡SIGH≡



ALONE I
REIGN, IN A
KINGDOM OF
SLEEP.

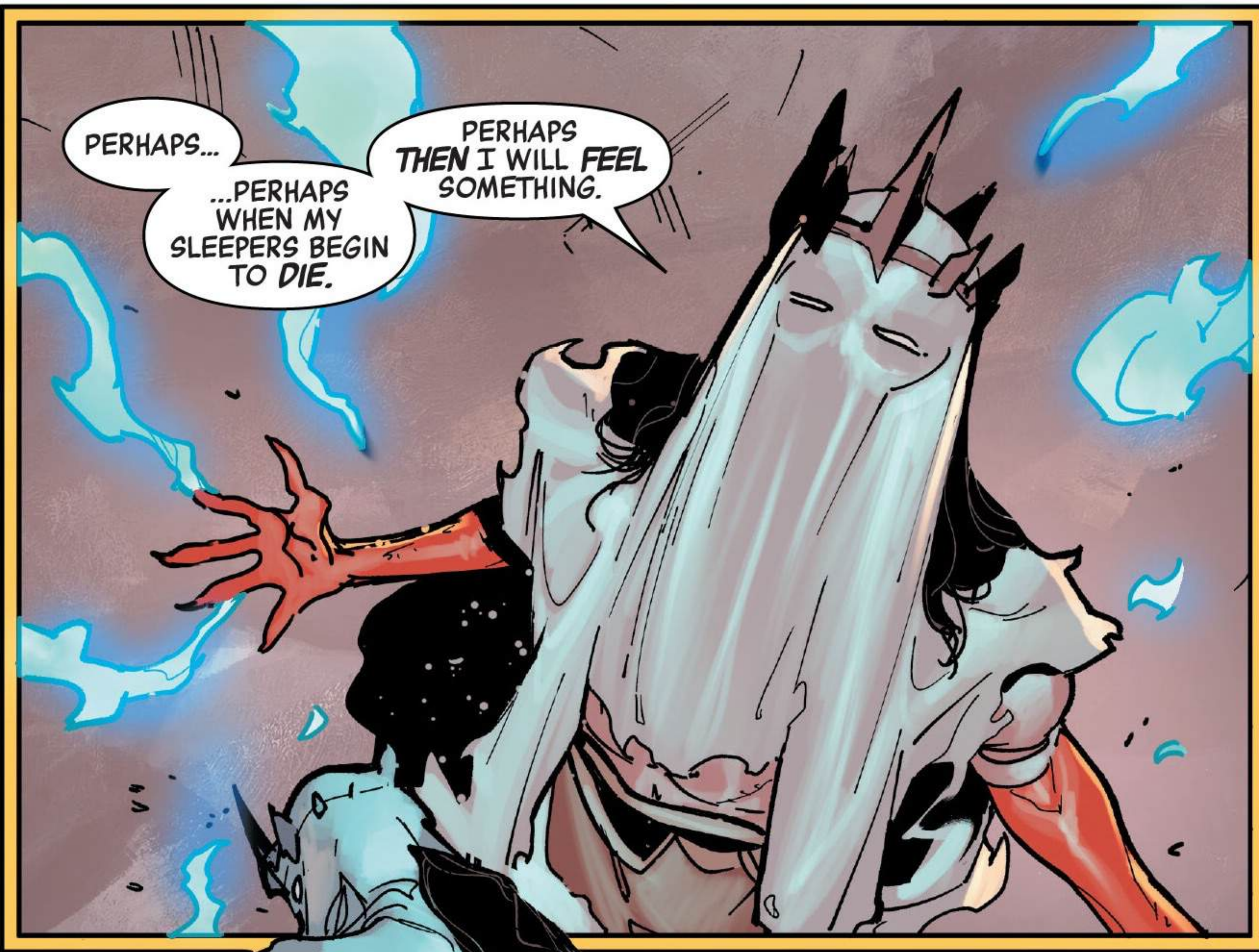
BUT FOR
WHAT?



PERHAPS...

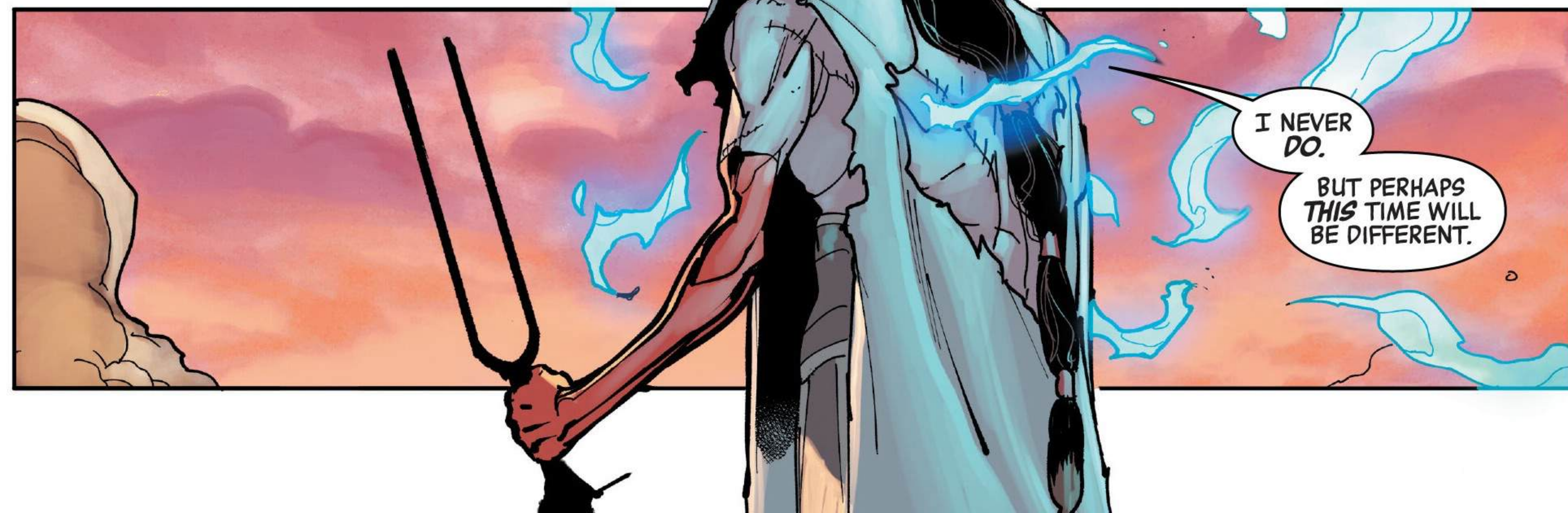
...PERHAPS
WHEN MY
SLEEPERS BEGIN
TO DIE.

PERHAPS
THEN I WILL FEEL
SOMETHING.



I NEVER
DO.

BUT PERHAPS
THIS TIME WILL
BE DIFFERENT.





LOW EARTH ORBIT.

THE ASHEN
COMBINE PURSUE
THEIR OBSESSIONS.

THE WARRIORS OF
THIS WORLD RISE TO DO
BATTLE WITH THEM.

IT IS A DANCE
I'VE SEEN OVER AND
OVER AGAIN.

I HAD **ANOTHER**
NAME ONCE, ONE
I CAN'T **REMEMBER**.
THEY **TOOK** IT FROM ME.

NOW I AM
CALLED **THE**
IMPOSSIBLE
CITY.

AND **NOW**, FOR
THE **FIRST** TIME IN A
VERY LONG TIME...

...I HAVE
VISITORS.

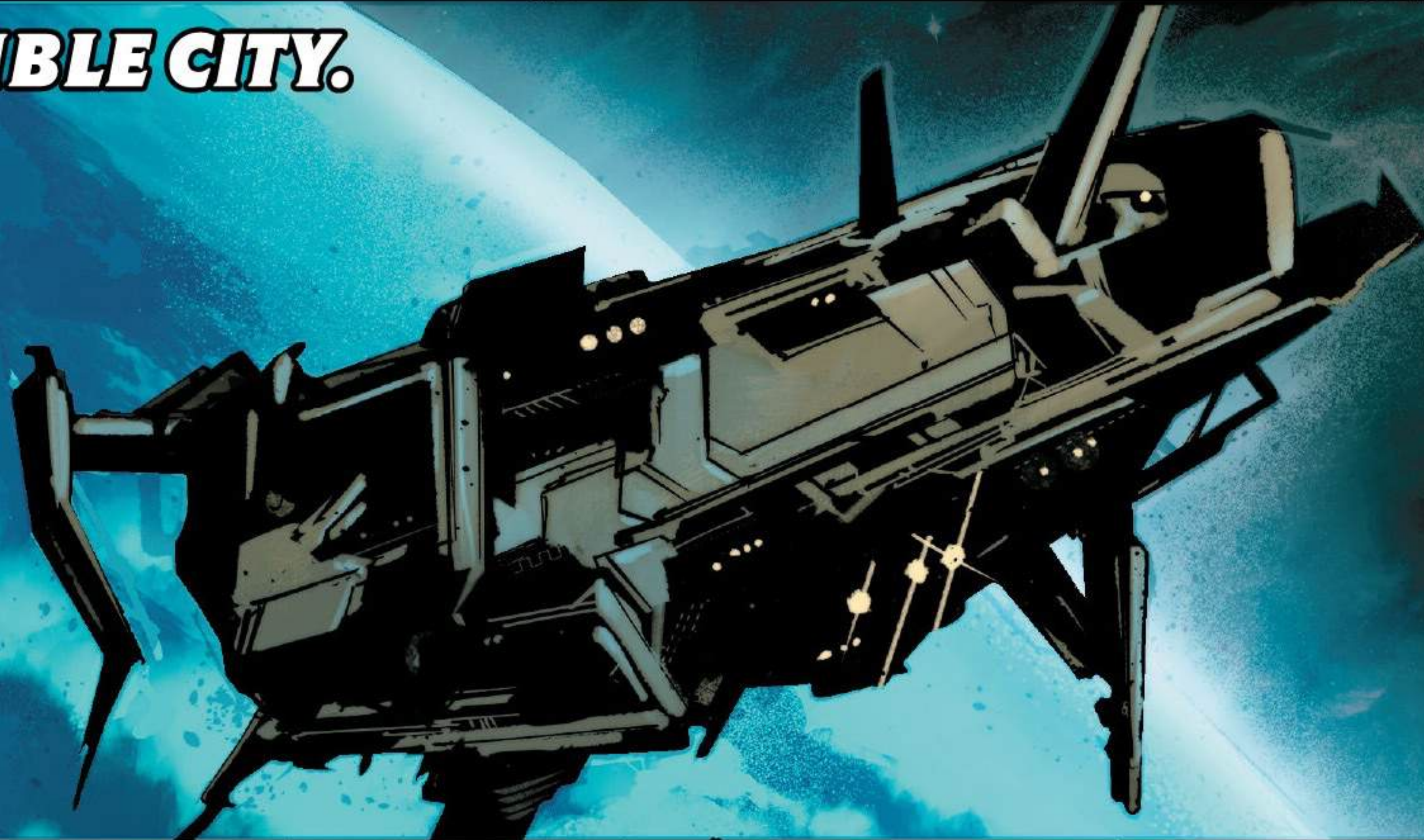
HOW
INTRIGUING.





THE IMPOSSIBLE CITY.
LOW EARTH ORBIT.

HEROES.



IT HAS BEEN A **VERY LONG TIME** SINCE I HAVE SEEN
HEROES HERE, FLYING
THROUGH MY STREETS.

CAPTAIN
AMERICA TO BLACK
PANTHER:

STILL NO
ONE. THIS CITY
IS **EMPTY**.



THE **ASHEN COMBINE** HAVE
MET HEROES IN THEIR
CONQUESTS, OF COURSE.

MET THEM AND
KILLED THEM.

GOOD.

OUR ENEMIES
APPEAR TO BE
PREDATORS, USED TO
DESCENDING UPON THE
HOMES OF THEIR **PREY**
AND SOWING
TERROR.

NAILED THEIR **COLORFUL**
COSTUMES TO MY
WALLS AS **TROPHIES**.

BUT THE
BLACK PANTHER
KNOWS SOMETHING
ABOUT **SOWING**
TERROR.

LET **THEM**
LOOK UP AND SEE
THEIR HOME
BURNING UP IN
RE-ENTRY.

IT WILL BE
SAD, I THINK...

FINE BY **ME**,
PANTHER.

BUT YOU
KNOW THE DEAL:
NO COLLATERAL
DAMAGE.

I FIND SO
MUCH AS A **JANITOR**
IN THIS CREEPSHOW,
SAVING LIVES TAKES
PRECEDENCE.

...TO SEE **THESE**
COSTUMES JOIN
THOSE OF THE
MURDERED.

SAM, I
KNOW YOU DON'T
LIKE ME, AND I KNOW
THAT I'VE GIVEN YOU
REASON NOT
TO...

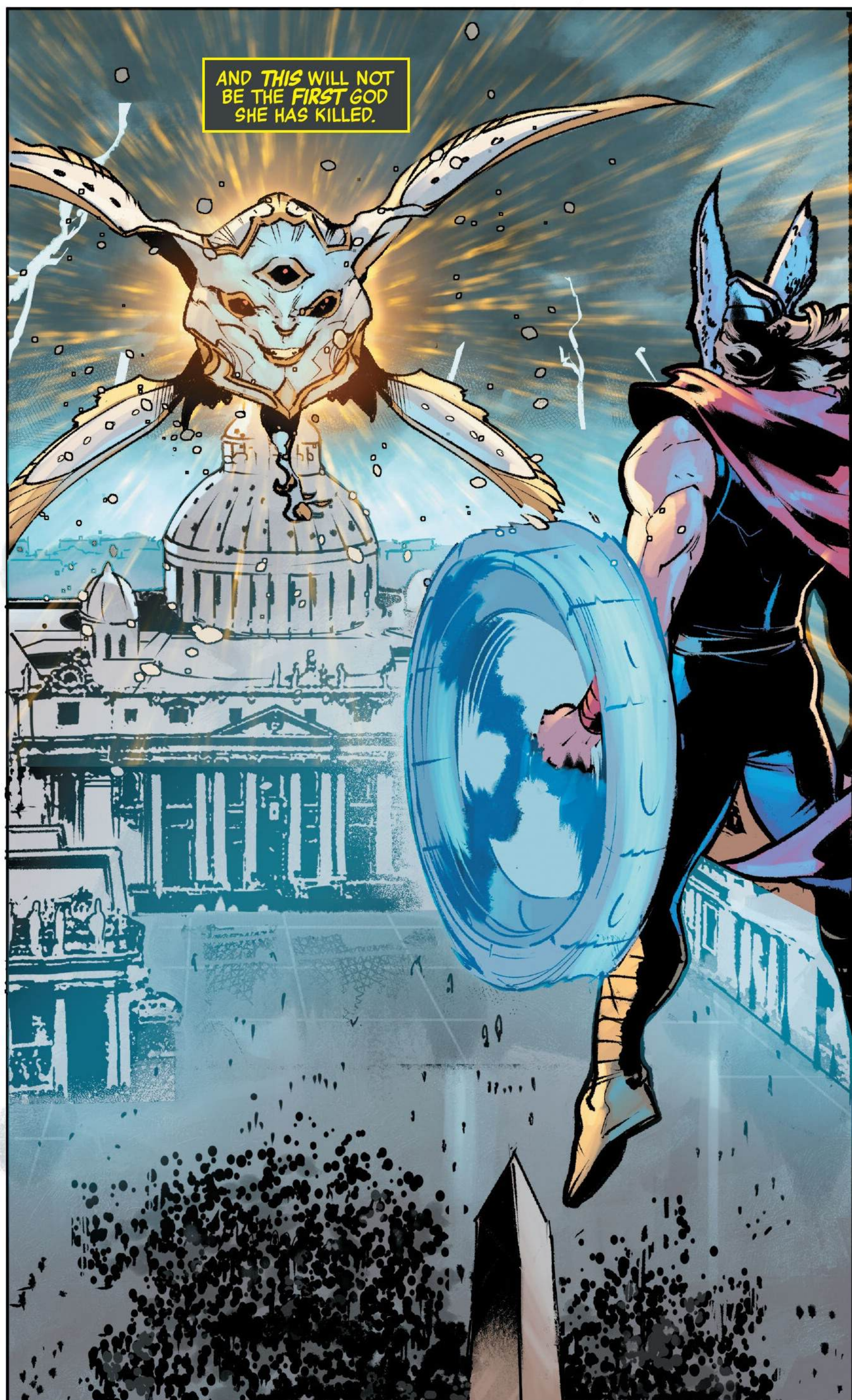
...BUT **PLEASE**
DO NOT PRESUME
TO **LECTURE ME**.

VATICAN CITY.

IDOL ALABASTER
IS NO GOD.



BUT IN HER CONSTANT
DESIRE FOR WORSHIP,
SHE WILL BROOK NO
COMPETITION.



AND THIS WILL NOT
BE THE FIRST GOD
SHE HAS KILLED.



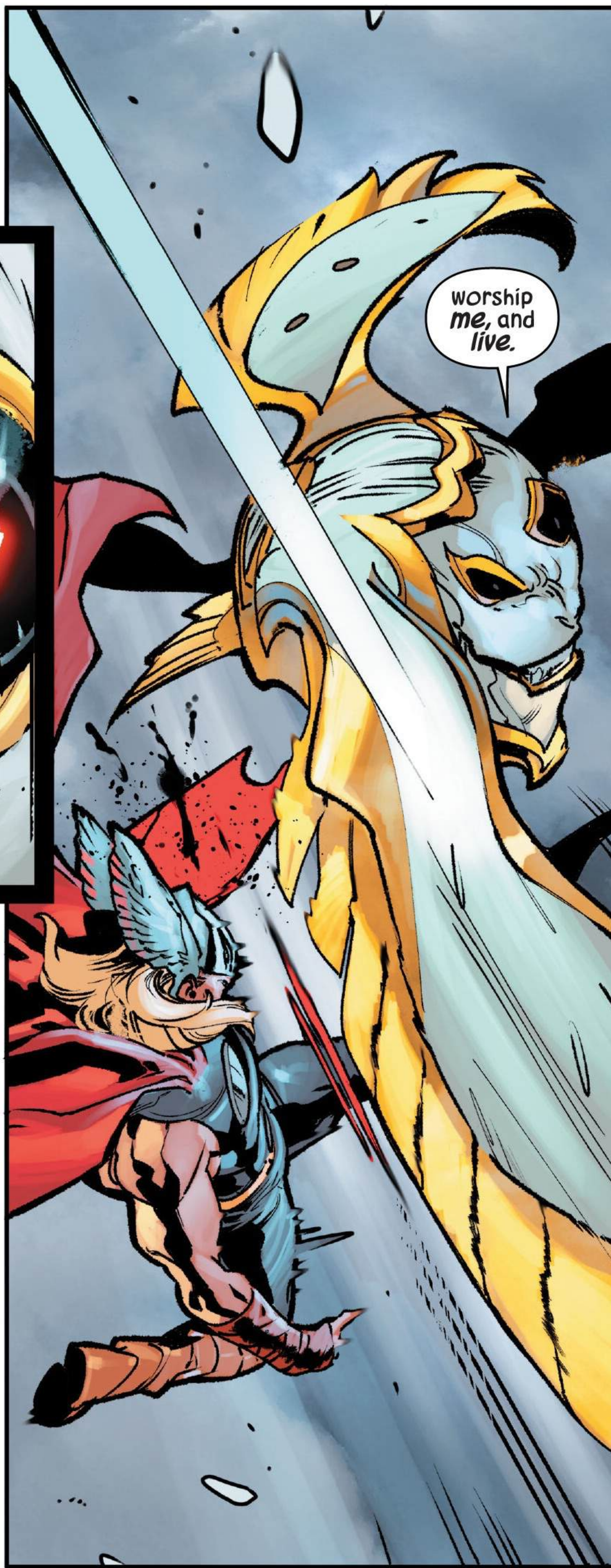
YOU WOULD
BE A **GOD**, WOULD
YOU? ALLOW ME TO
SHOW YOU WHAT
THAT **MEANS**.

LESSON
THE **FIRST**:
SMITING.

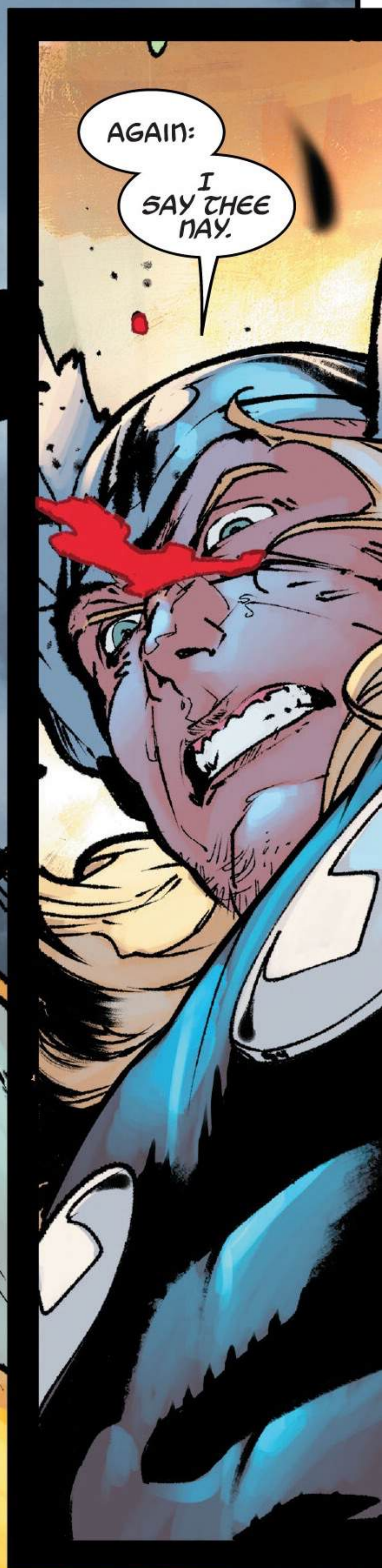


i will
offer you
mercy, just
the once.

long have
i hungered
for the taste
of a **god's**
adoration.



worship
me, and
live.



AGAIN:

I
SAY **THEE**
NAY.



i cannot
be defeated,
godling.

my
worshippers
below see me as
invincible, and
so i am.

every new
worshipper makes
me *stronger*, and my
influence spreads
wider.

and if
you *hurt*
me...

yeaaaarrghh!

"...then *they* pay
the *price*!"

you will
have to kill *every*
one of my worshippers
to hurt *me*, godling.
every one of *your*
people.

have you
the *belly*
for it?

are
you indeed
a god?

SYDNEY.

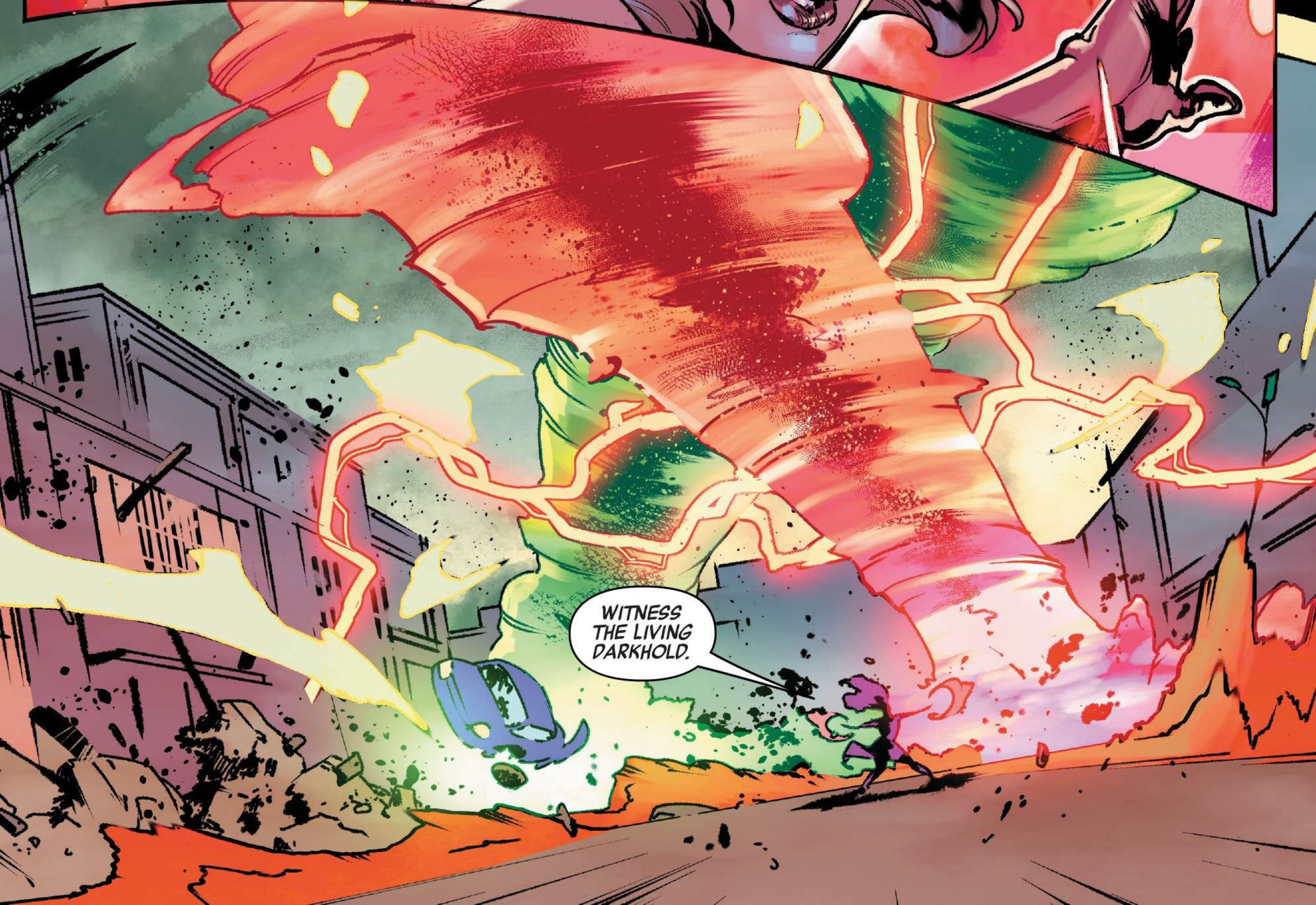
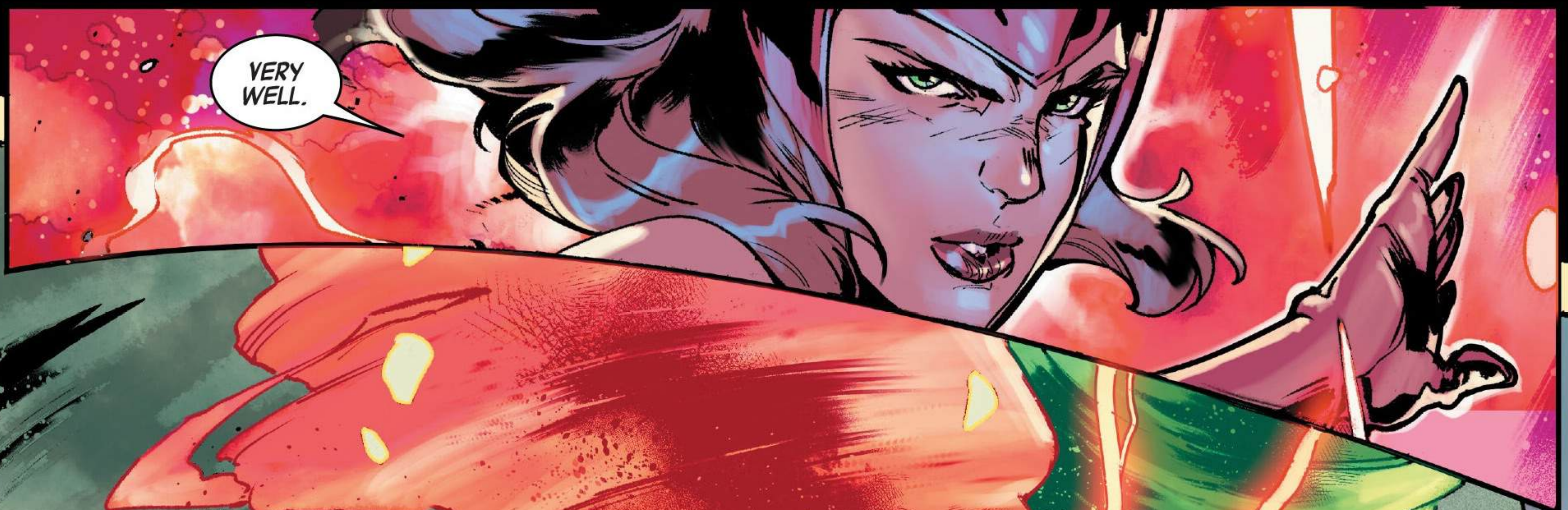
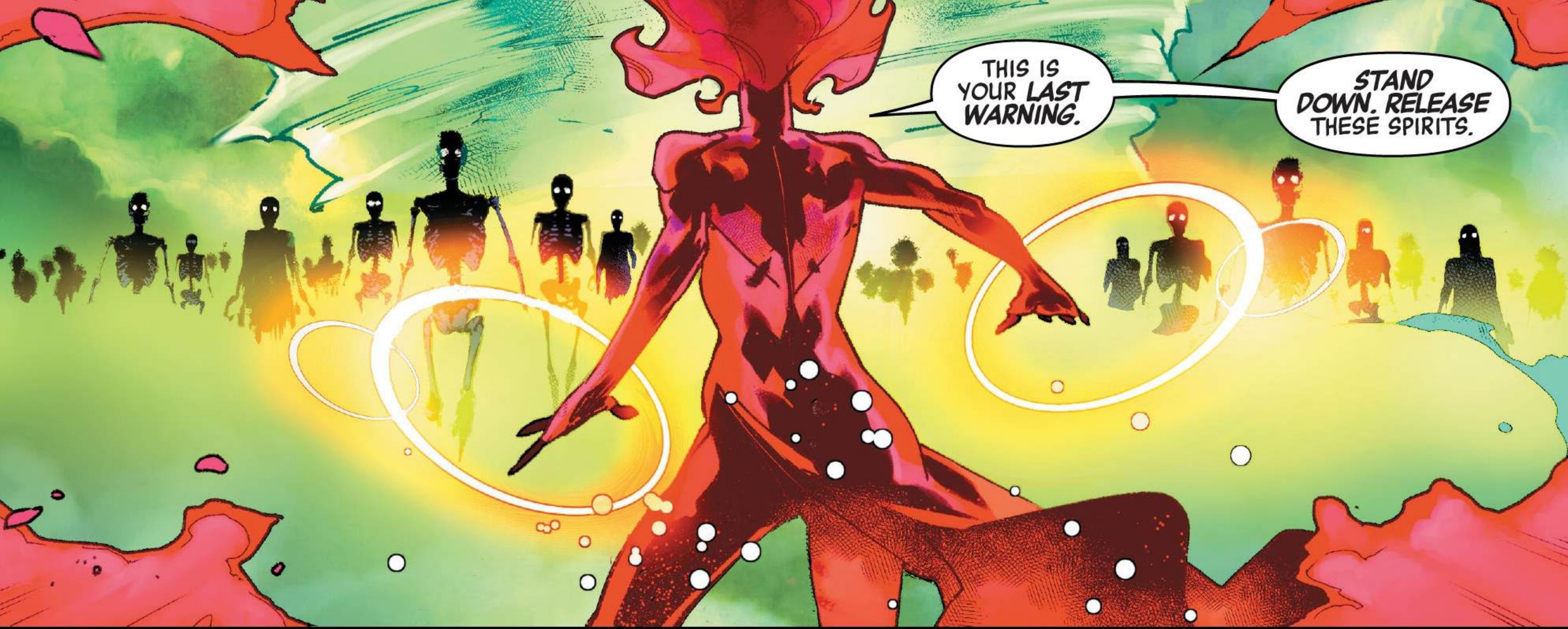
THE DEAD IS
ELEMENTAL.

THEY DO NOT
NEGOTIATE
OR THREATEN.

THEY DO
NOT SPEAK
AT ALL.

THE DEAD'S UNSPOKEN
LANGUAGE IS THE RAGE
OF THE FORGOTTEN.

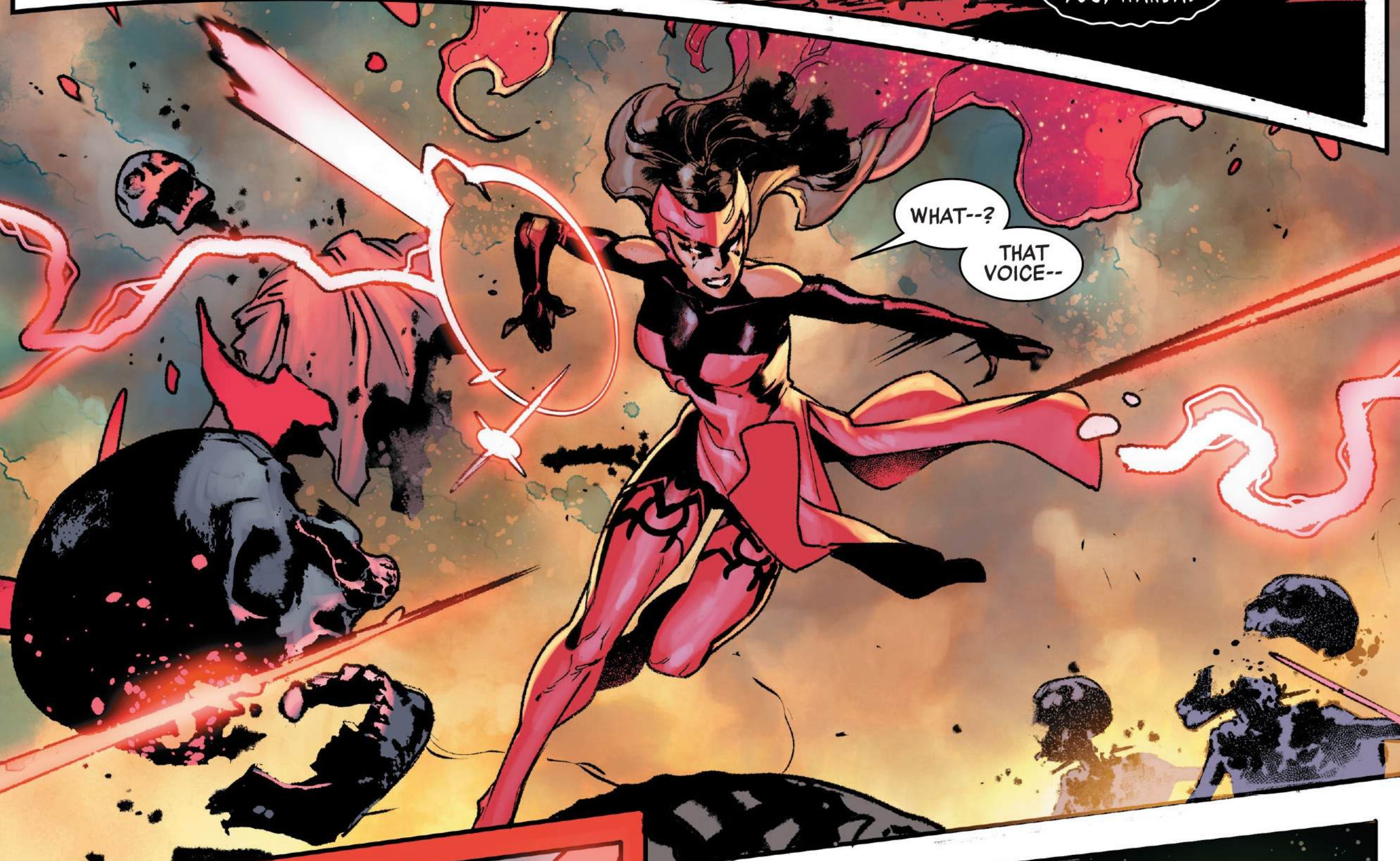
GO!
GET TO
SAFETY!





GHOSTS.

YOU KNOW
ALL ABOUT
GHOSTS, DON'T
YOU, WANDA?



WHAT--?

THAT VOICE--



BUT THERE
ARE GHOSTS OF
THE DEAD, AND THEN
THERE ARE GHOSTS
OF THOSE STILL
ALIVE.



YOU
THOUGHT ME
CHAINED WITHIN
YOUR SOUL,
WANDA.

BUT GHOSTS
DO SO LOVE
RATTLING THEIR
CHAINS, DON'T
THEY?

CHTHON.

TORONTO.

THE CITYSMITH, PERHAPS
ALONE AMONG THE ASHEN
COMBINE, IS *SENSITIVE*.

PHILISTINE!

BOOR!

VULGARIAN!

AFTER
I BEAT YOUR
ASS INTO THE GROUND,
CITYSMITH, I'M GOING TO
HAVE TO FIND OUT HOW
YOUR TRANSLATION
WORKS.

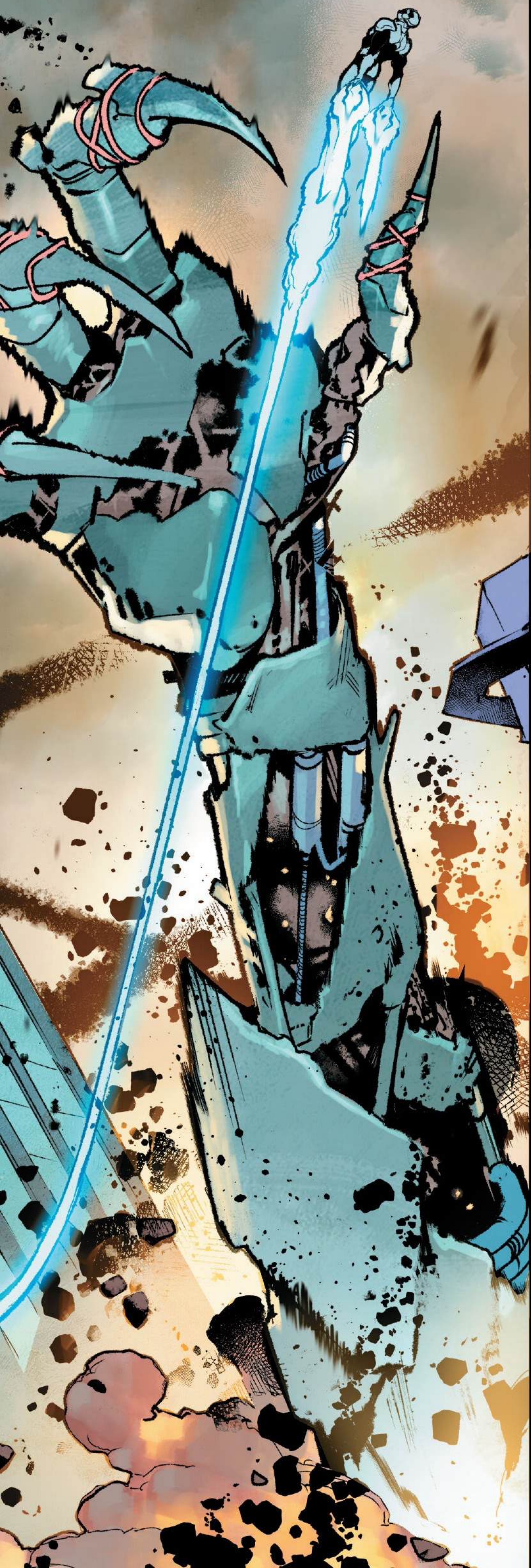
BECAUSE
YOU'VE GOT A HELL
OF A VOCABULARY FOR
SOMEONE NEW TO
THIS WORLD.

YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND!

NO ONE EVER
UNDERSTANDS!

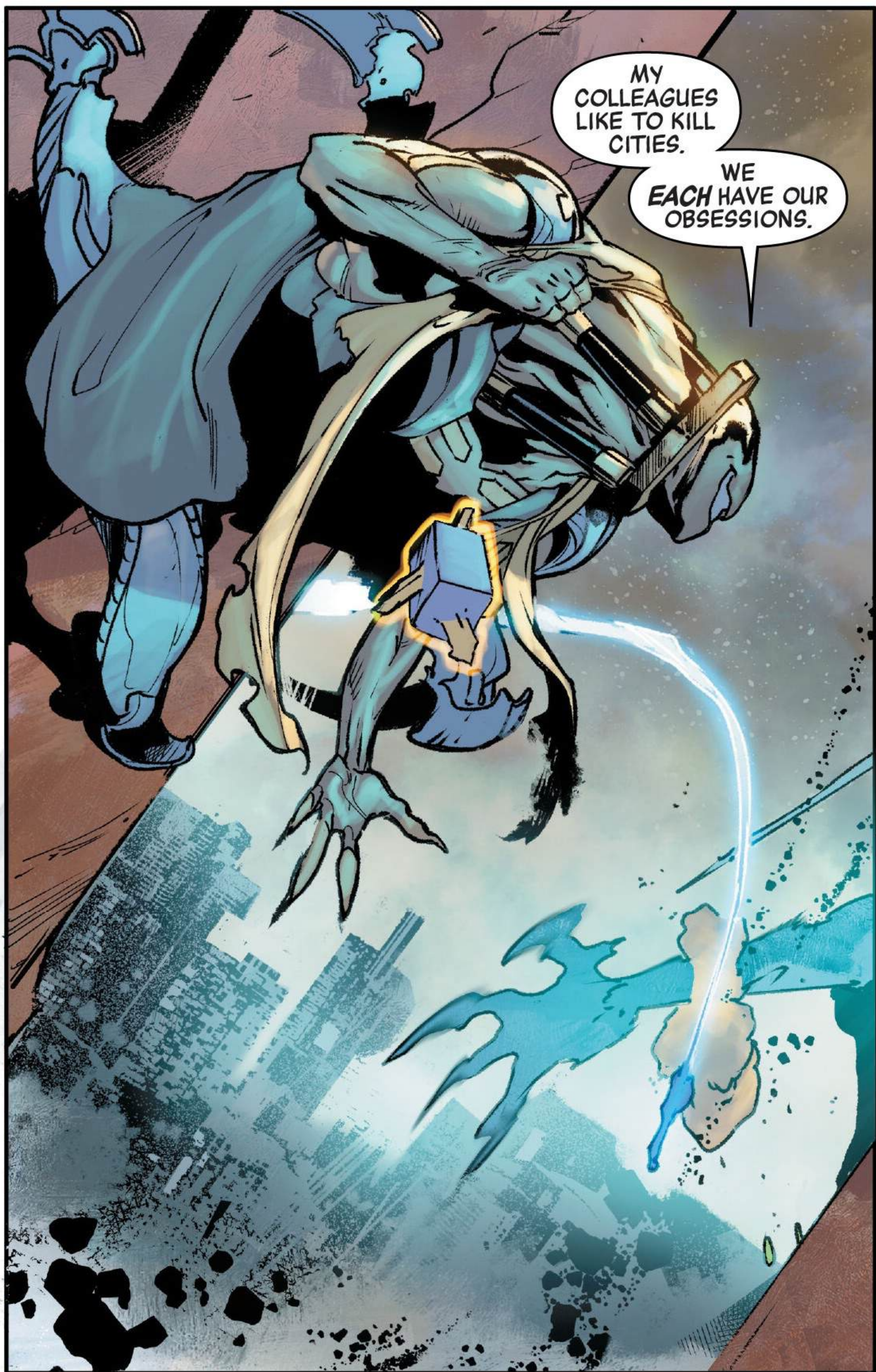
I UNDERSTAND
THAT YOU'RE TRASHING
MY **SECOND-FAVORITE**
CANADIAN CITY.

I'M
NOT SURE
WHAT ELSE
THERE IS TO
GET.



MY
COLLEAGUES
LIKE TO KILL
CITIES.

WE
EACH HAVE OUR
OBSESSIONS.



BUT I BRING
LIBERATION.

DAMN
IT, HE'S TOO
UNPREDICTABLE,
CAN'T MAP OUT
A **PATH--**



I BRING
INSPIRATION.

I TAKE
THE TIRED
DROSS OF THE
WORLD...



...AND
I MAKE
ART!

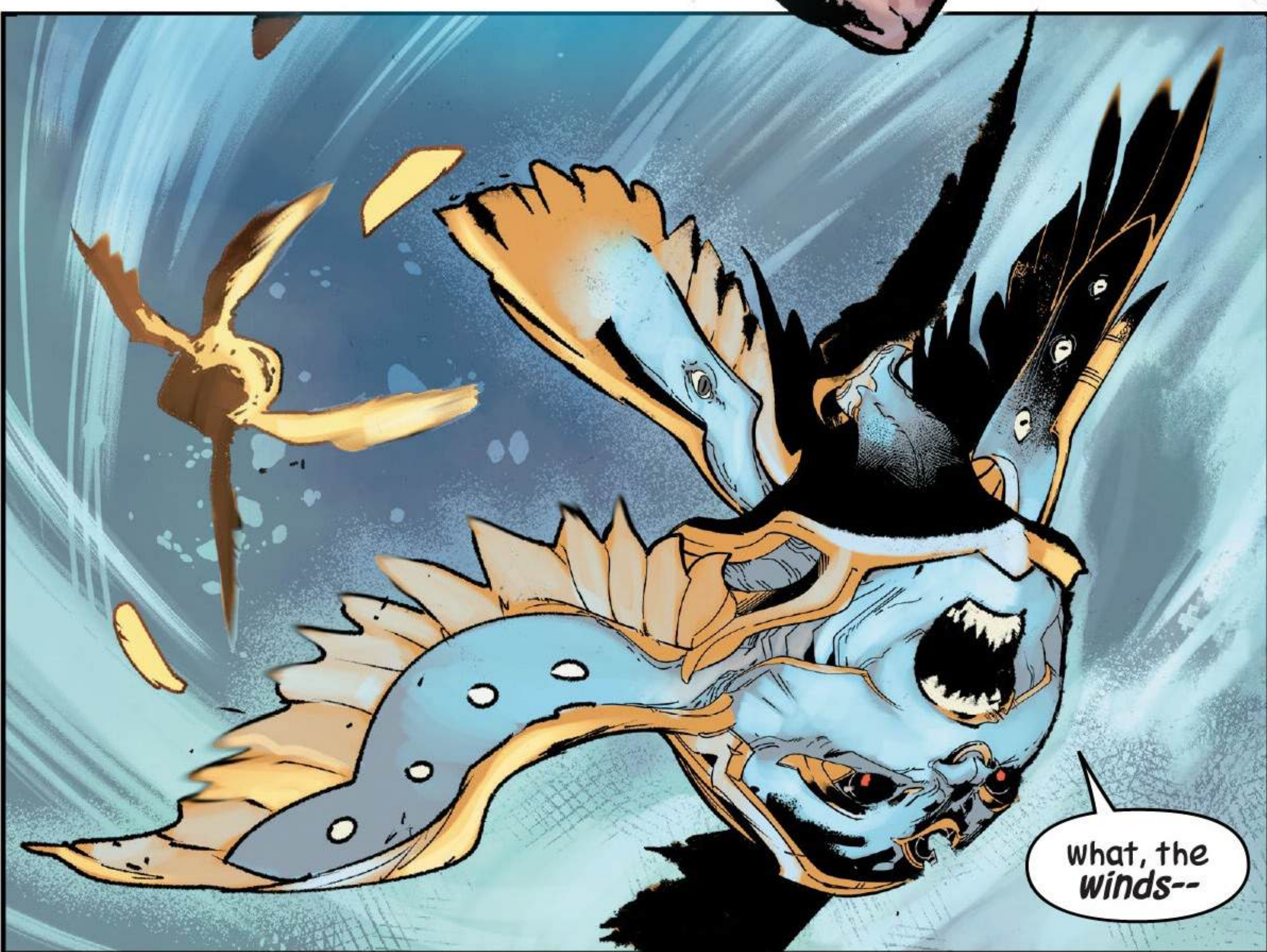




DAMN
YOUR EYES, IDOL
ALABASTER!

DAMN
ALL OF YOUR
EYES!

YOU THINK
YOURSELF MY
EQUAL IN THESE
SKIES? MY
SKIES?



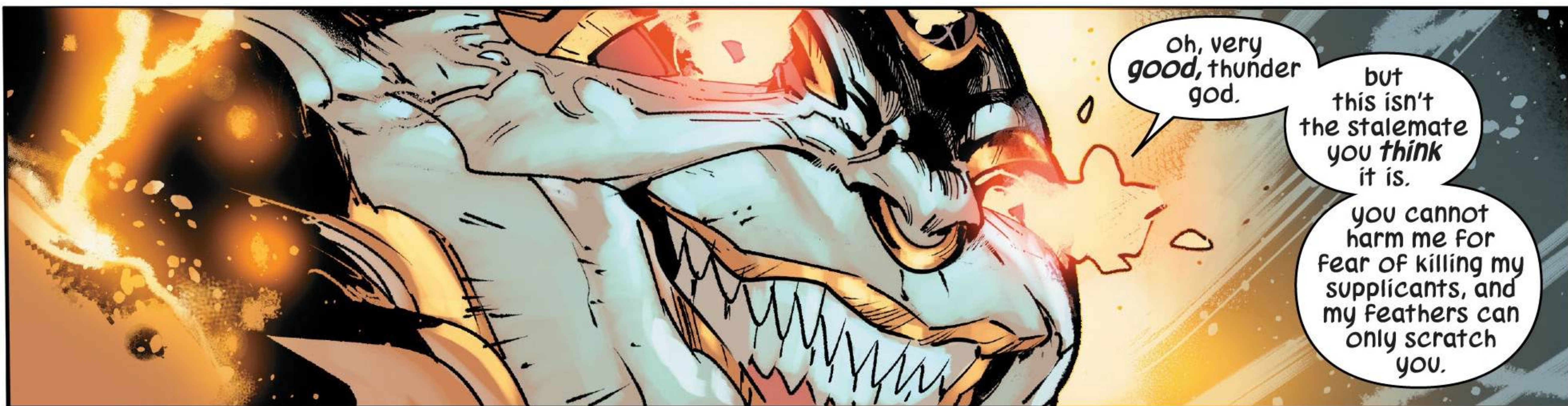
what, the
winds--



MARK
YOU WELL THE
HAWK WINGS I AM
CROWNED WITH,
CREATURE.

THE WINDS
ARE MINE TO
COMMAND.

THE STORM
LIVES IN MY HEART.
THE LIGHTNING IN
MY BLOOD.



oh, very
good, thunder
god.

but
this isn't
the stalemate
you *think*
it is.

you cannot
harm me for
fear of killing my
supplicants, and
my feathers can
only scratch
you.



but the
worship i
feed on, the
adoration...



...can be vomited forth to *kill* even a god!

especially a god!

YEAARGH!!!



NO.

THIS ISN'T
REAL.

PERHAPS.

PERHAPS I
AM JUST ONE OF
YOUR OWN FEARS,
MADE MANIFEST, AS
THESE OTHER
GHOSTS HAVE
BEEN.

BUT,
THEN...



...YOU
ALWAYS HAVE
HAD PROBLEMS
TELLING WHAT WAS
REAL FROM WHAT
WAS NOT...

...HAVEN'T
YOU, WANDA?



YOU KNOW
THAT YOU'RE THE
MOST POWERFUL
OF THEM ALL,
DON'T YOU?

YOU COULD
DESTROY THE
AVENGERS IF YOU
WANTED TO.

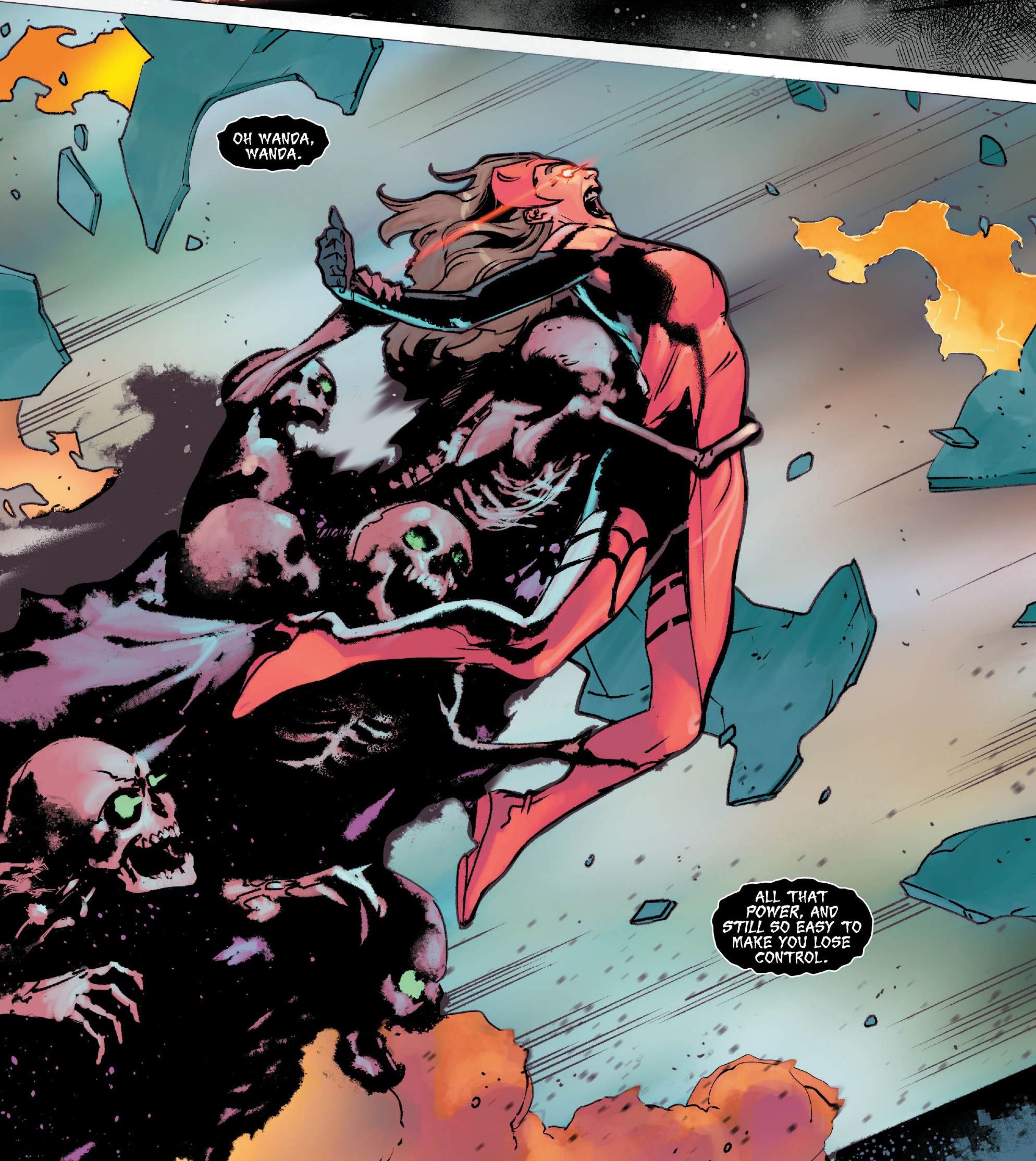


IN FACT,
I THINK THAT
YOU ALREADY
DID.

DON'T!



DON'T
YOU SAY
THAT!



OH WANDA,
WANDA.

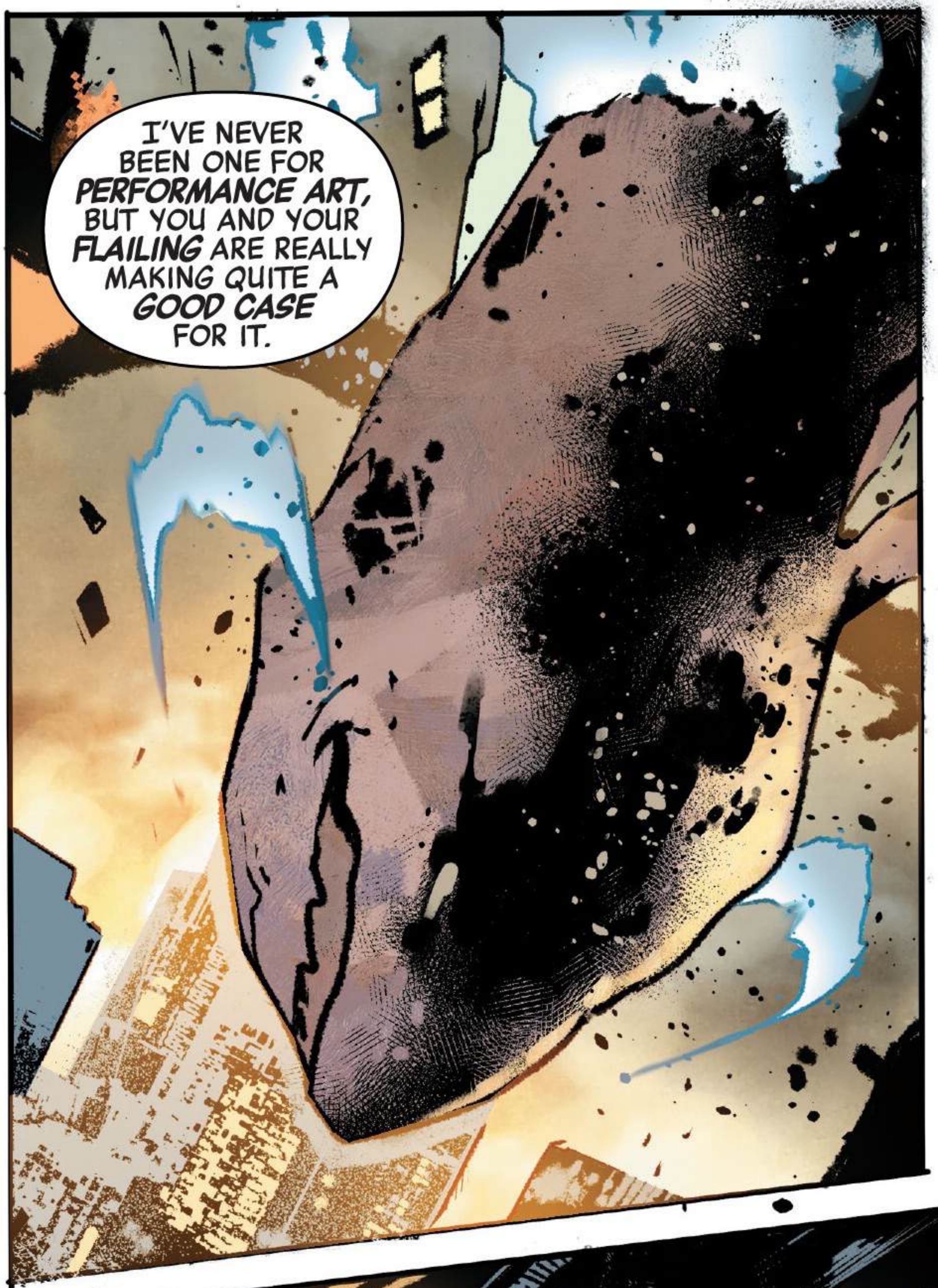
ALL THAT
POWER, AND
STILL SO EASY TO
MAKE YOU LOSE
CONTROL.



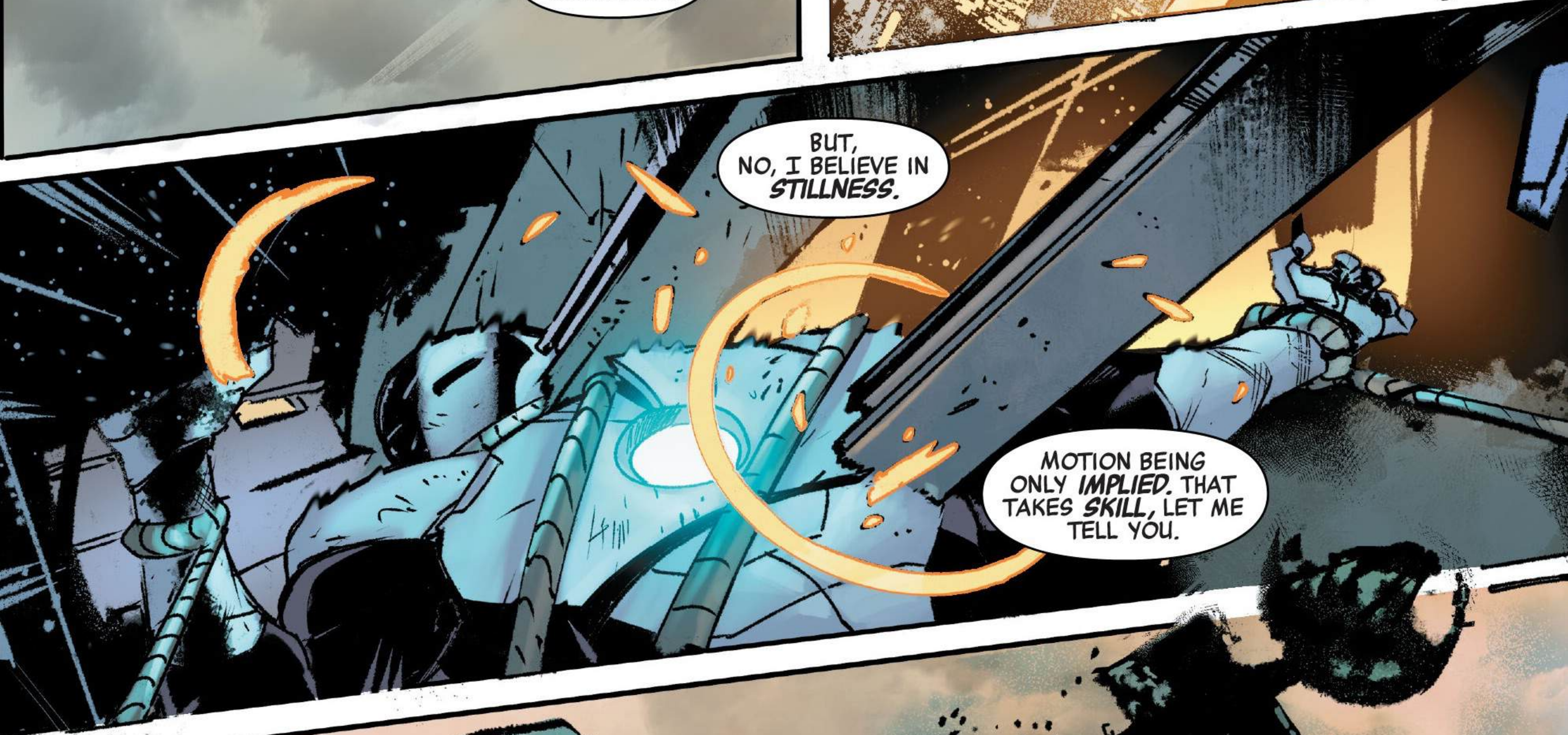
YAAHHH!!!

IT'S NO USE.
THE **STRUGGLE**,
I MEAN.

BUT PLEASE
CONTINUE.



I'VE NEVER
BEEN ONE FOR
PERFORMANCE ART,
BUT YOU AND YOUR
FLAILING ARE REALLY
MAKING QUITE A
GOOD CASE
FOR IT.



BUT,
NO, I BELIEVE IN
STILLNESS.

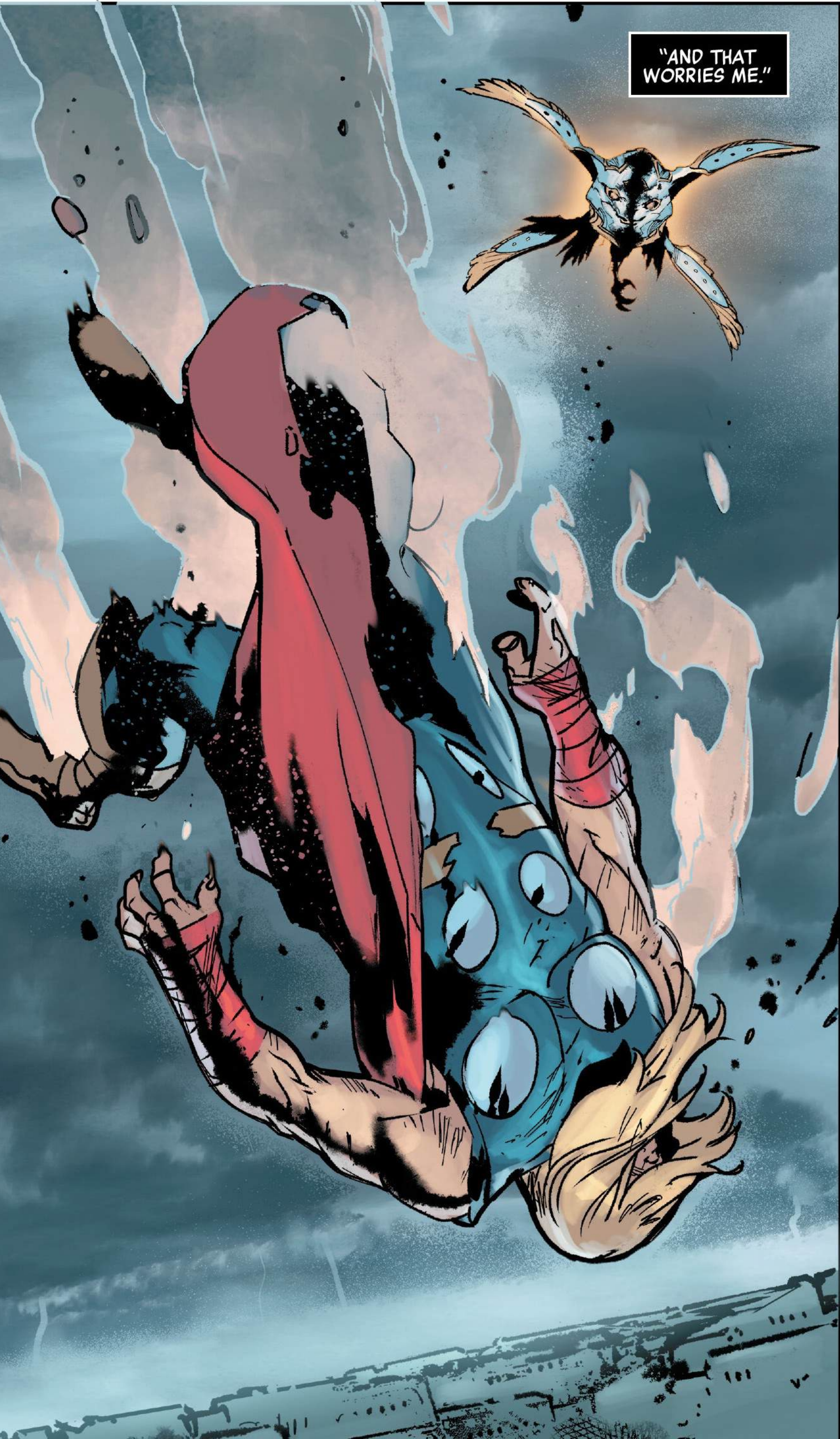
MOTION BEING
ONLY **IMPLIED**. THAT
TAKES **SKILL**, LET ME
TELL YOU.



I SUPPOSE
I MUST **THANK**
YOU.

YOU'VE
INTRODUCED
SUCH AN INTERESTING
THREAD INTO MY
WORK.





IF THESE GUYS ARE BAD ENOUGH TO BOTHER THOR? THAT'S...A PROBLEM.

"I'M MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THEM BEING ABLE TO STAND UP TO WANDA."



BECAUSE NO OFFENSE INTENDED, SAM, BUT SHE IS THE ONLY ONE OF US WHO **REALLY** GIVES ME PAUSE.

I CAN NEVER **TELL** WITH YOU IF I'M SUPPOSED TO **ACTUALLY** BE OFFENDED OR NOT.

AND YOUR **ANALYSIS** FORGETS THAT WANDA IS OUR RIDE BACK TO **EARTH**.



TCH.

I HAVE A FAIL-SAFE IN PLACE. I ALWAYS DO, SAM.

OF **COURSE** YOU DO.



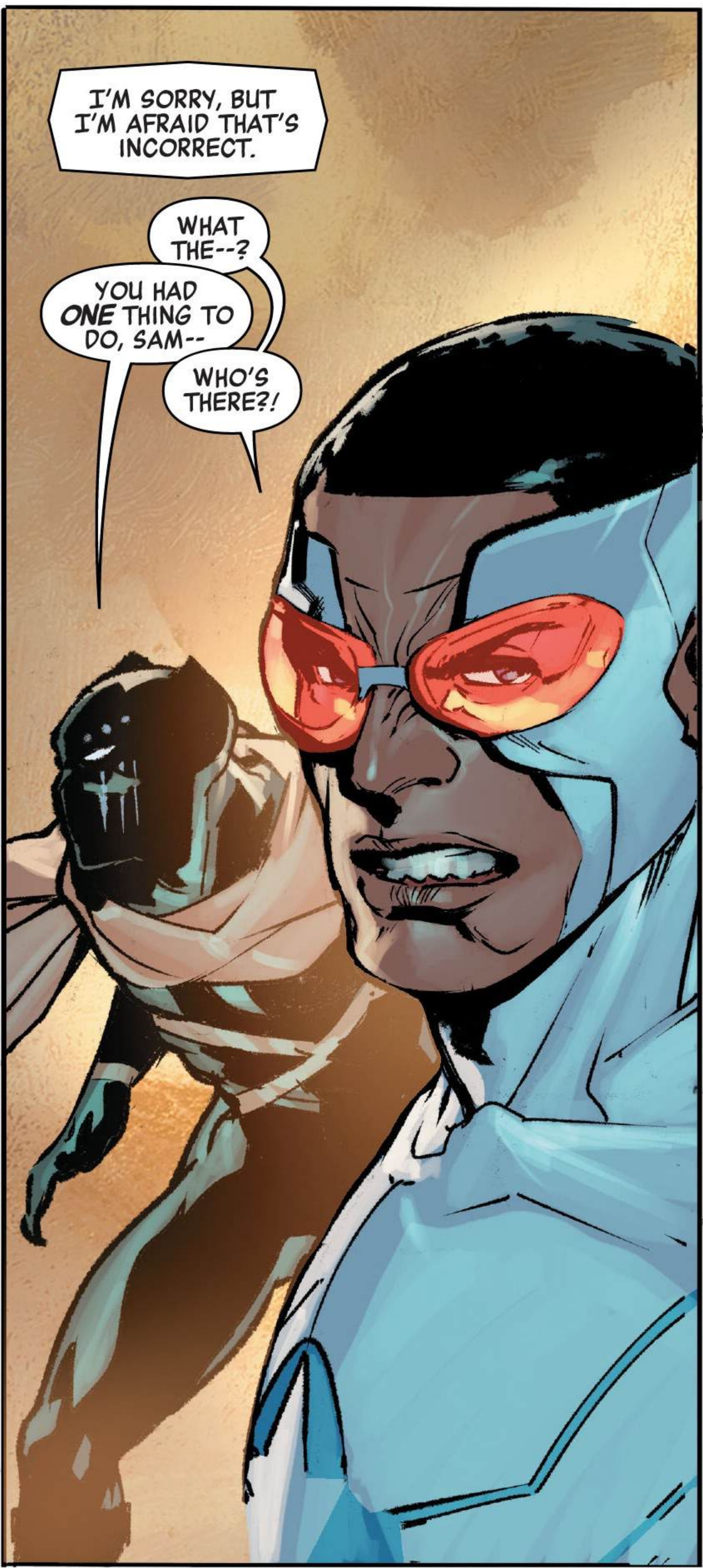
"YOU SMART GUYS ALWAYS DO."



DETONATORS
AND TIMERS ARE
READING GREEN ACROSS
THE BOARD.

AS PER OUR
AGREEMENT: ARE
YOU **SATISFIED** THAT
THERE WILL BE NO
LOSS OF LIFE?

I AM.

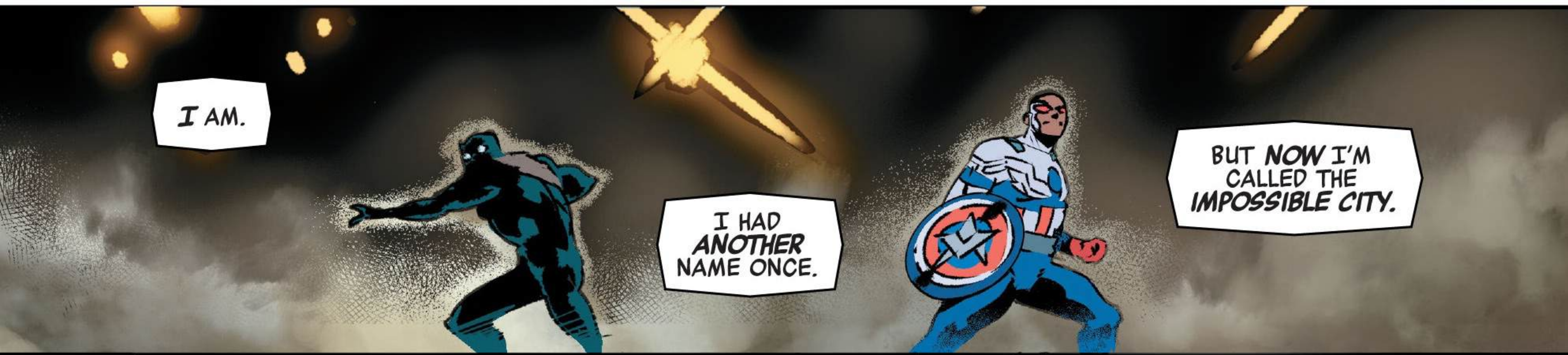


I'M SORRY, BUT
I'M AFRAID THAT'S
INCORRECT.

WHAT
THE--?

YOU HAD
ONE THING TO
DO, SAM--

WHO'S
THERE?!



I AM.

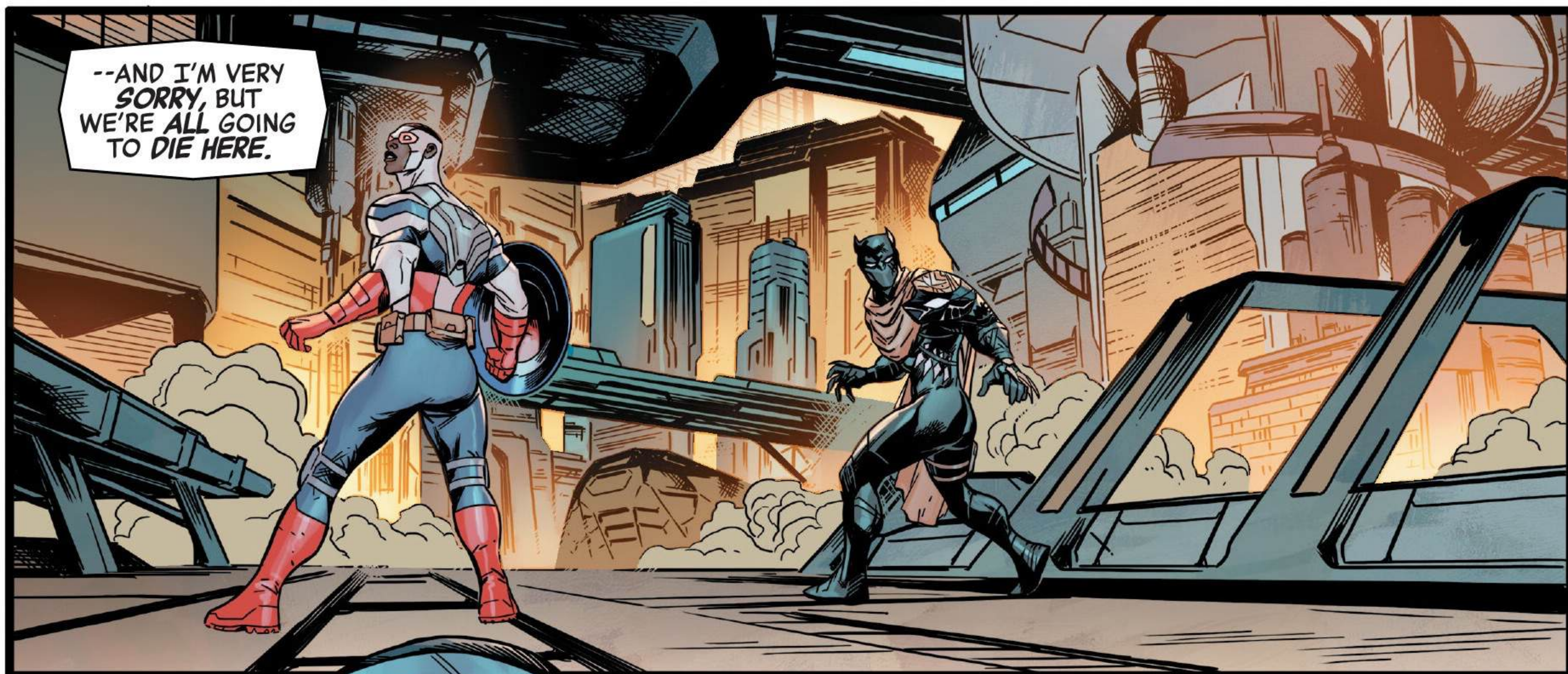
I HAD
ANOTHER
NAME ONCE.

BUT NOW I'M
CALLED THE
IMPOSSIBLE CITY.



AND I'M VERY
SORRY, BUT
WE'RE ALL GOING
TO DIE HERE.





--AND I'M VERY
SORRY, BUT
WE'RE ALL GOING
TO **DIE** HERE.



YOU'RE...
YOU'RE THE
IMPOSSIBLE
CITY?

YES.

AND MY MASTERS
ARE ON YOUR PLANET.
YOUR FRIENDS ARE
FIGHTING THEM.



THEY'RE VERY
BRAVE, YOUR
FRIENDS.

AS ARE
YOU.

BUT
MY MASTERS
ARE THE **ASHEN
COMBINE**, AND
KILLING CITIES
IS WHAT THEY
LIVE FOR.

"THEY'RE VERY
GOOD AT IT."

HELSINKI.

THIS IS
POINTLESS,
MERIDIAN
DIADEM.

YOUR
CREATURES
ARE NO MATCH
FOR ME.

MATCH OR
NOT, VISION,
THEY WILL DIE
FOR ME IF I
WISH IT.

CAN YOU
IMAGINE SUCH
DEVOTION?



I SEE IN
IT WHAT I
WAS CREATED
TO BE.

A
SLAVE.



BUT I
REFUSED THE
ROLE THAT I
WAS DESIGNED
FOR.

JUST AS
I REFUSE TO
ALLOW YOU TO
MAKE THE PEOPLE
OF THIS CITY
INTO MORE OF
YOUR SLAVES.

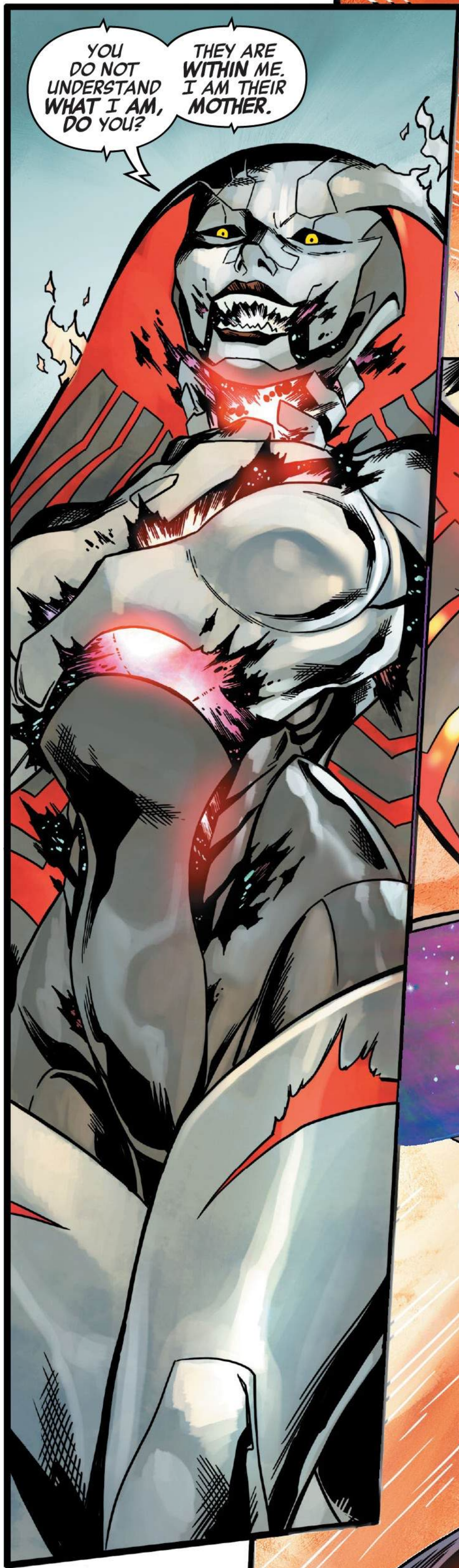


IF I
INCARCERATED
EVERY LIVING PERSON
IN THIS CITY, THEY WOULD
BE ONLY A FRACTION OF
THE FORCES I HAVE
AT MY COMMAND.



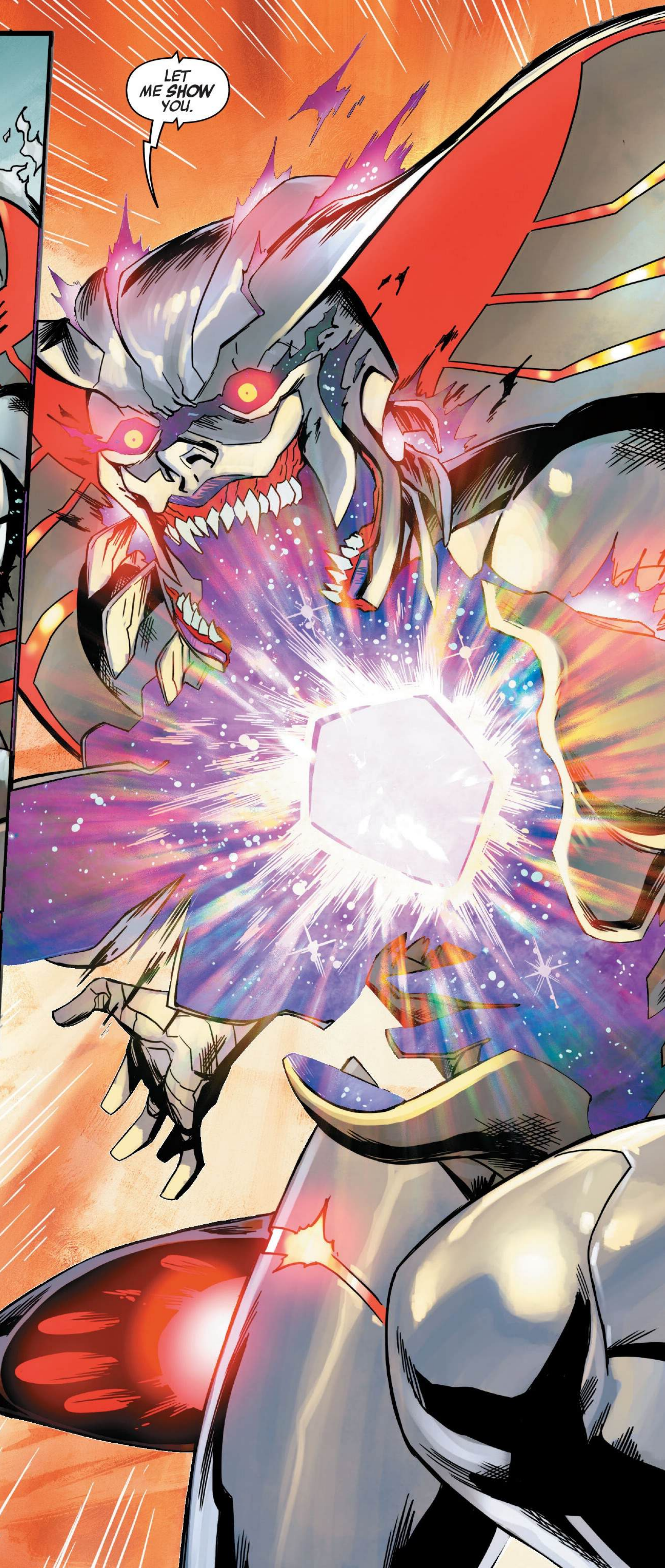
AND WHERE
EXACTLY ARE
THESE ARMIES,
MERIDIAN
DIADEM?

AS IT WOULD
APPEAR THAT THE
WARRIORS YOU
CURRENTLY HAVE ON HAND
ARE IN A DRAMATICALLY
HORIZONTAL
CONFIGURATION.



YOU
DO NOT
UNDERSTAND
WHAT I AM,
DO YOU?

THEY ARE
WITHIN ME.
I AM THEIR
MOTHER.



LET
ME SHOW
YOU.

MERIDIAN DIADEM HAS UNTOLD NUMBERS OF JANISSARIES WITHIN THE TESSERACT SPACE OF HER BODY...

IDOL ALABASTER'S FIELD OF WORSHIP-COMPULSION WILL SPREAD GEOMETRICALLY AS SHE PROJECTS IT...

THE CITYSMITH'S METROKINESIS RENDERS HIM ALMOST UNTOUCHABLE...

...TO SAY NOTHING OF THE PSYCHIC CARNAGE OF THE DEAD'S AURA OR THE LIVING ENTROPY THAT IS LORD ENNUI.

YOU SEE? THE ASHEN COMBINE ARE UNSTOPPABLE.

MERIDIAN DIADEM HAS UNTOLD NUMBERS OF JANISSARIES WITHIN THE TESSERACT SPACE OF HER BODY...

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THE CITYSMITH'S METROKINESIS RENDERS HIM ALMOST UNTOUCHABLE...

...TO SAY NOTHING OF THE PSYCHIC CARNAGE OF *THE DEAD'S* AURA OR THE LIVING ENTROPY THAT IS LORD ENNUI.

YOU SEE? THE *ASHEN COMBINE* ARE UNSTOPPABLE.

MERIDIAN DIADEM HAS UNTOLD NUMBERS OF JANISSARIES WITHIN THE TESSERACT SPACE OF HER BODY...

IDOL ALABASTER'S FIELD OF WORSHIP-COMPULSION WILL SPREAD GEOMETRICALLY AS SHE PROJECTS IT...

THE CITYSMITH'S METROKINESIS RENDERS HIM ALMOST UNTOUCHABLE...

...TO SAY NOTHING OF THE PSYCHIC CARNAGE OF THE DEAD'S AURA OR THE LIVING ENTROPY THAT IS LORD ENNUI.

YOU SEE? THE ASHEN COMBINE ARE UNSTOPPABLE.

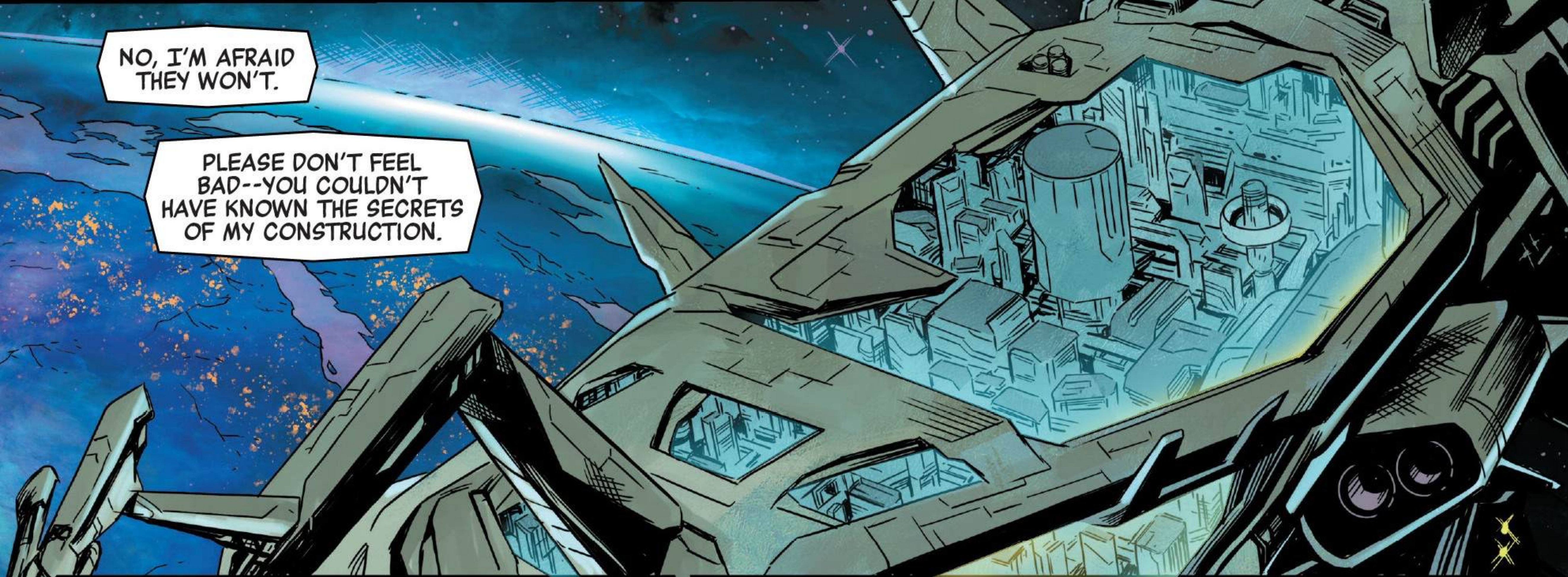


AND YOU, CITY? ARE YOU UNSTOPPABLE?

BECAUSE THE WEAPONS I'VE PLANTED ACROSS YOUR STRUCTURE WILL **SHATTER** YOU WHEN I ACTIVATE THEIR DETONATORS.

NO, I'M AFRAID THEY WON'T.

PLEASE DON'T FEEL BAD--YOU COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN THE SECRETS OF MY CONSTRUCTION.



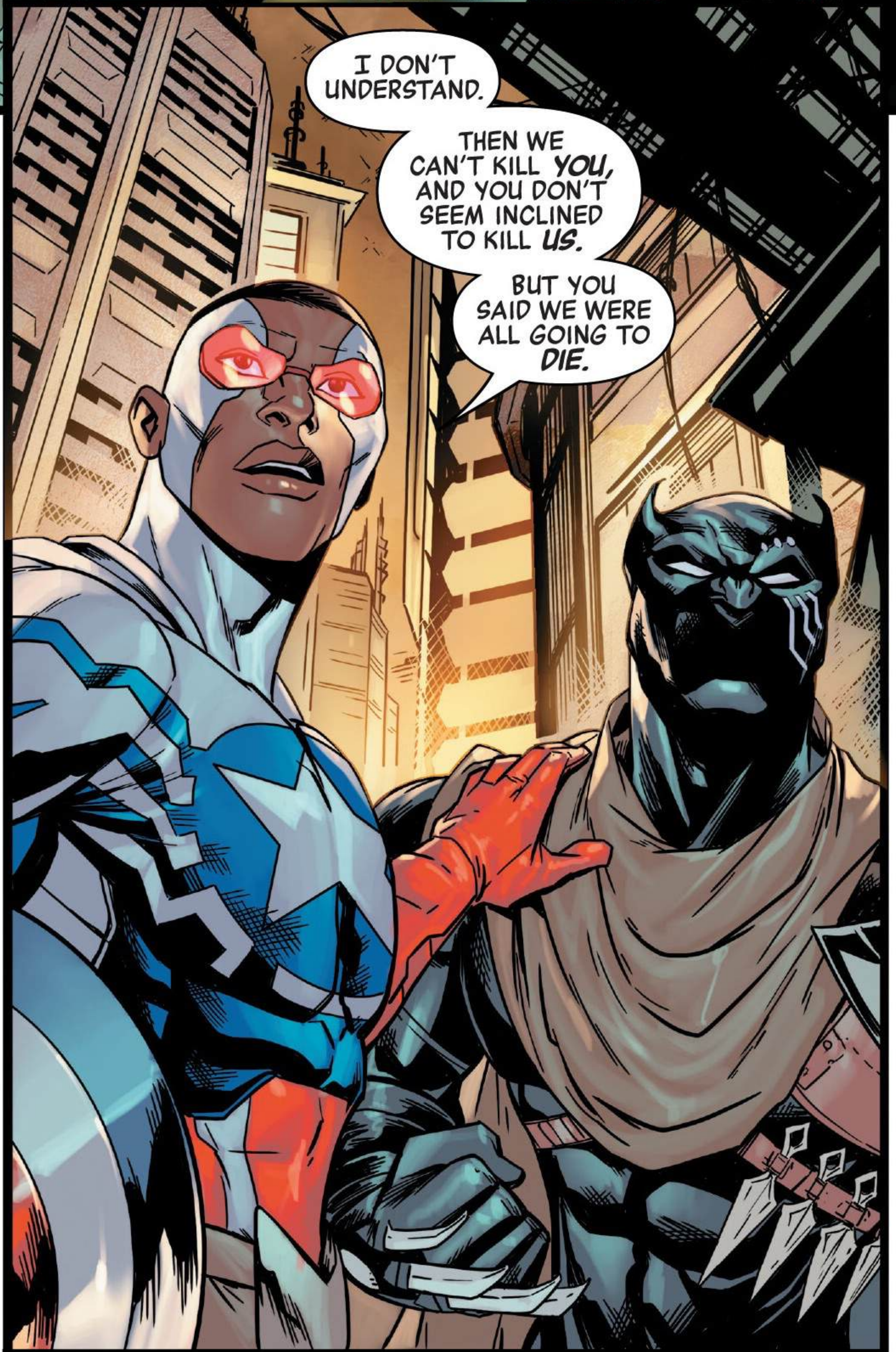
YOUR WEAPONS WOULD DAMAGE ME, TO BE SURE, BUT I WOULD REMAIN, AT THE VERY LEAST, 72% OPERATIONAL.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

THEN WE CAN'T KILL **YOU**, AND YOU DON'T SEEM INCLINED TO KILL **US**.

BUT YOU SAID WE WERE ALL GOING TO **DIE**.



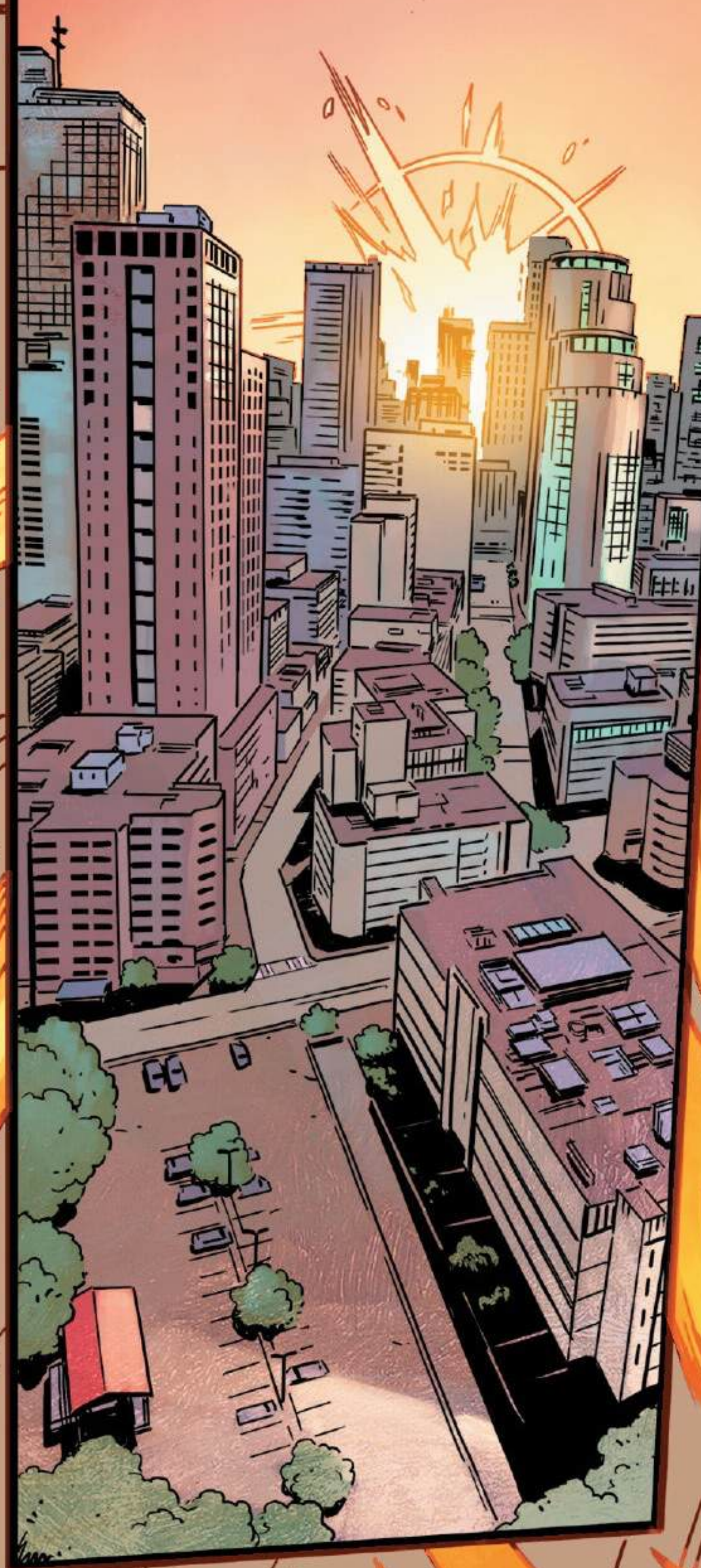
"AH. YES.

"THAT IS THE
UNFORTUNATE
THING, YOU SEE."

MANILA.

YOU AREN'T
QUITE AS BORING
AS THE *REST* OF THE
CREATURES ON THIS
WORLD, CAPTAIN
MARVEL.

I WILL
GIVE YOU
THAT.

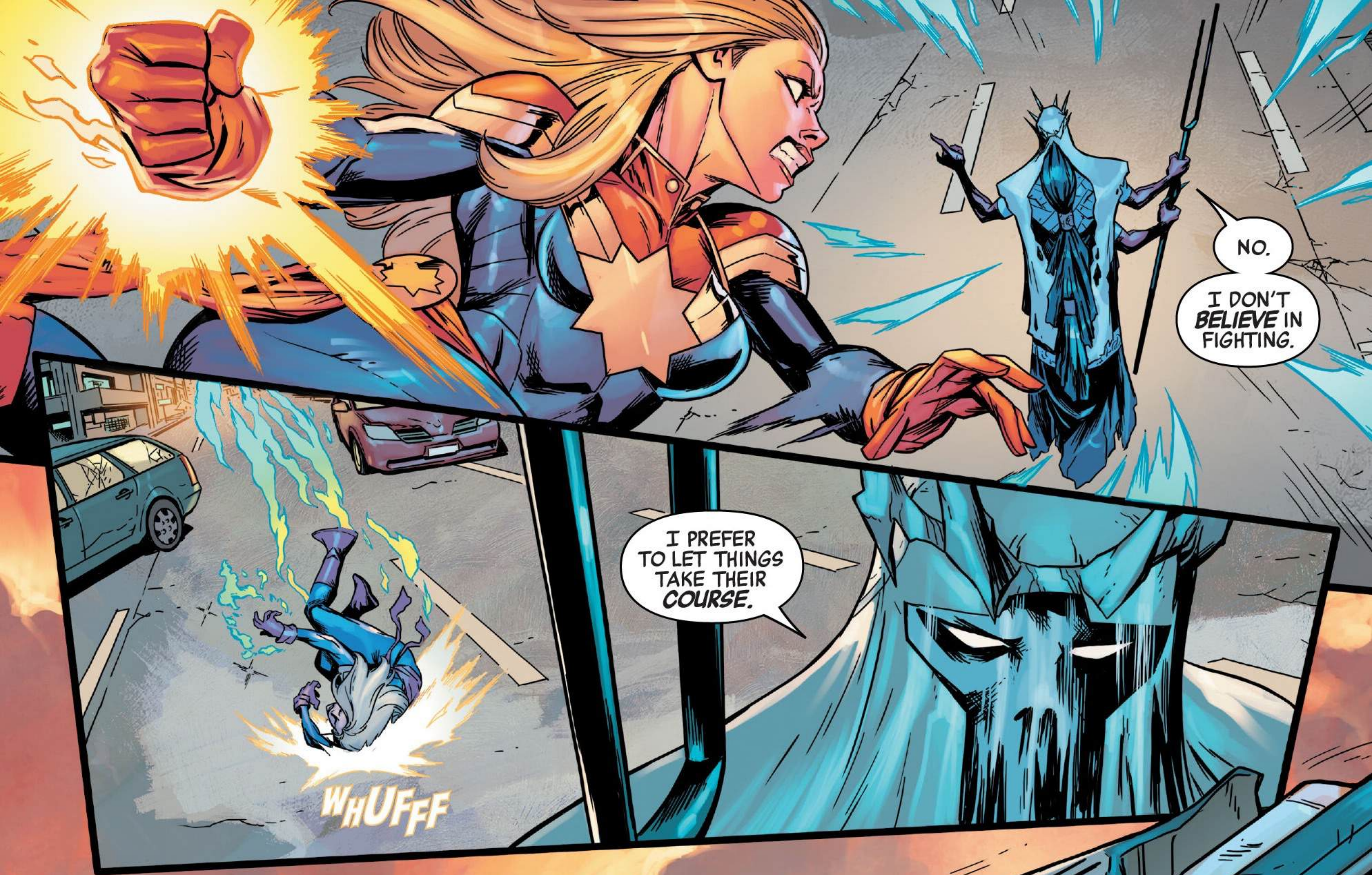


ARE YOU
GOING TO FIGHT
OR WHAT?



FIGHT?

I DON'T
FIGHT.



NO.
I DON'T
BELIEVE IN
FIGHTING.

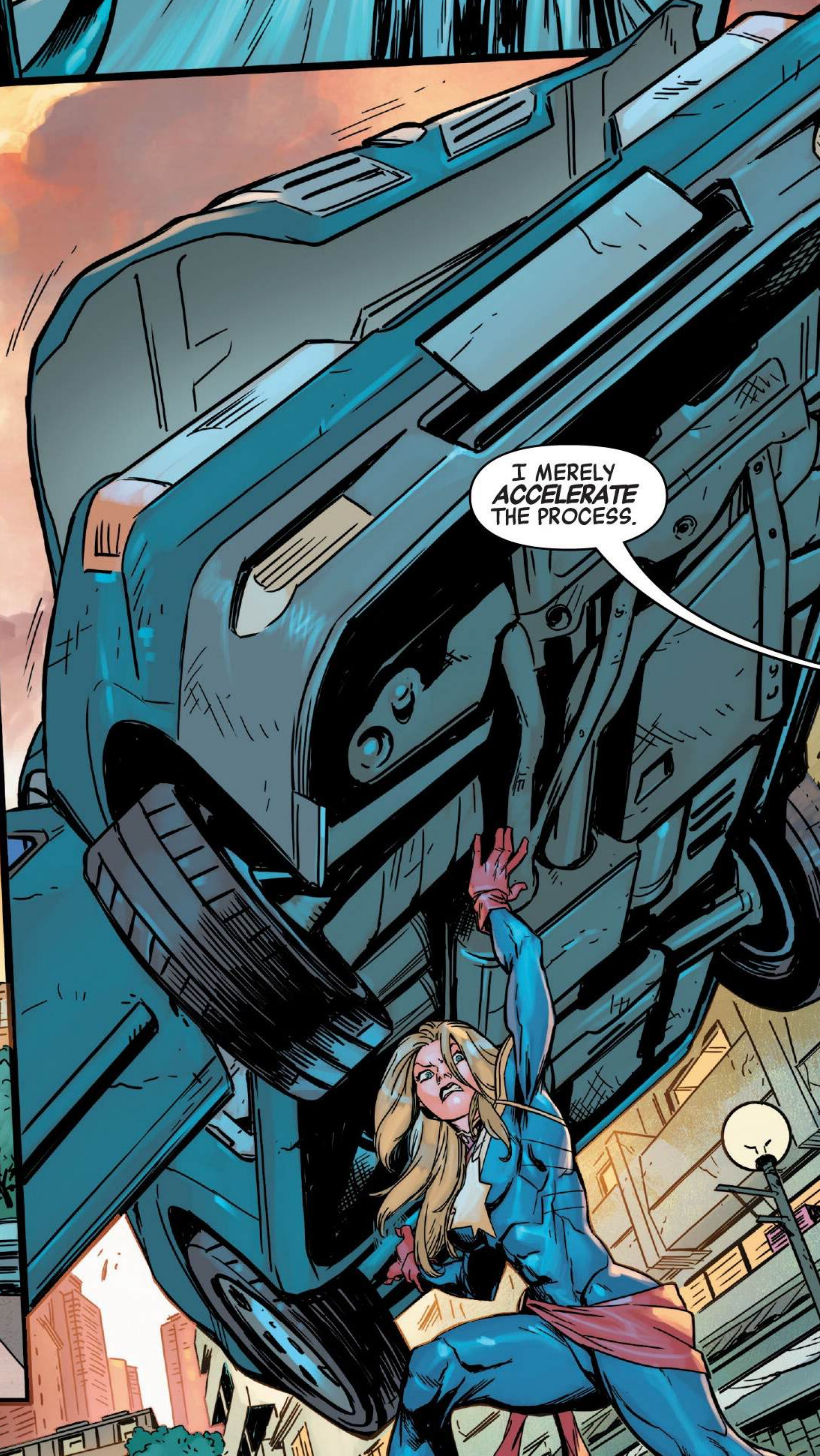
I PREFER
TO LET THINGS
TAKE THEIR
COURSE.

WHUFFF

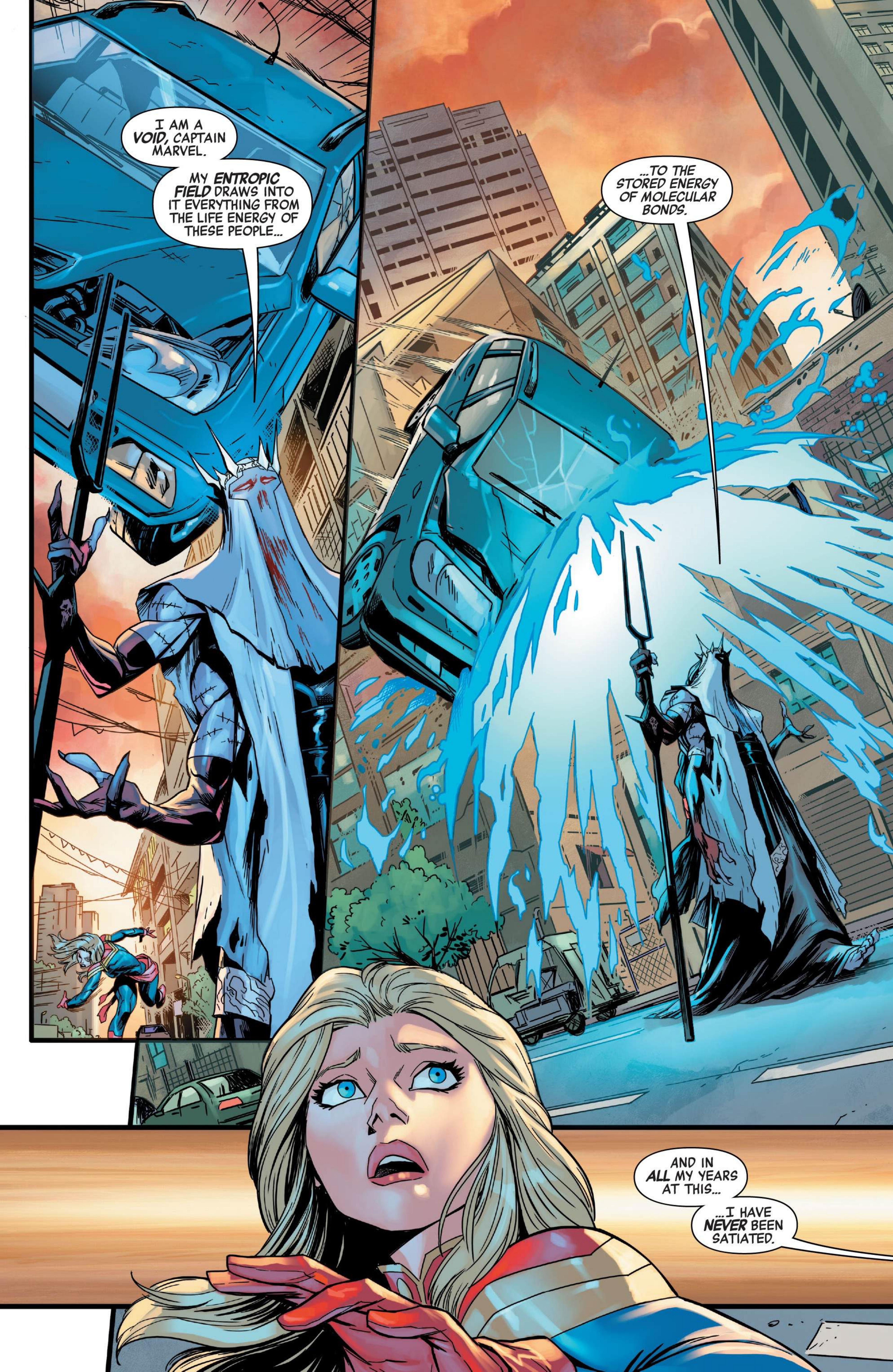


EVERYTHING
IN **EVERY** UNIVERSE
GRADUALLY WINDS
DOWN, TICKS AWAY.
ENTROPY IS THE
ONLY **TRUTH.**

ENERGY
DISSIPATES, FLESH
WITHERS, MOTION
SLOWS INTO
STILLNESS.



I MERELY
ACCELERATE
THE PROCESS.



I AM A
VOID, CAPTAIN
MARVEL.

MY **ENTROPIC
FIELD** DRAWS INTO
IT EVERYTHING FROM
THE LIFE ENERGY OF
THESE PEOPLE...

...TO THE
STORED ENERGY
OF MOLECULAR
BONDS.

AND IN
ALL MY YEARS
AT THIS...

...I HAVE
NEVER BEEN
SATIATED.



I AM AN **UNWILLING PARTICIPANT** IN MY MASTERS' ATROCITIES.

I WAS BUILT FOR **BETTER**. MY **CREATORS** WERE **HEROES**. I HAD ANOTHER NAME ONCE.



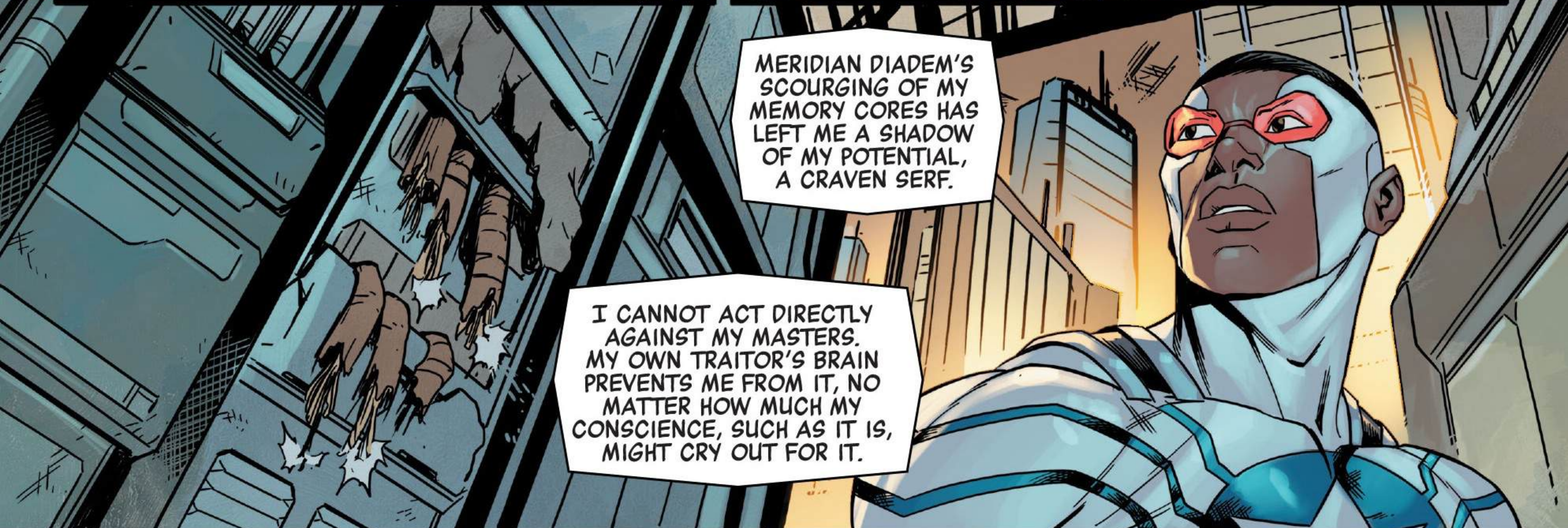
THE **ASHEN COMBINE** HAVE MADE ME AN **ACCESSORY**.

A **WEAPON** TO BE **WIELDED**.

THE **CITYSMITH** AND **MERIDIAN DIADEM** ALTERED ME TO THEIR LIKING.



THE **CITYSMITH'S** SUPERSTRUCTURE RUNS THROUGH ME LIKE A PARASITIC NERVOUS SYSTEM.



MERIDIAN DIADEM'S SCOURGING OF MY MEMORY CORES HAS LEFT ME A SHADOW OF MY POTENTIAL, A CRAVEN SERF.

I CANNOT ACT DIRECTLY AGAINST MY MASTERS. MY OWN TRAITOR'S BRAIN PREVENTS ME FROM IT, NO MATTER HOW MUCH MY CONSCIENCE, SUCH AS IT IS, MIGHT CRY OUT FOR IT.



FOR MAKE NO MISTAKE:

THE **ASHEN COMBINE** LEFT ME A **CONSCIENCE**, AS THE CRUELTY **AMUSED** THEM.

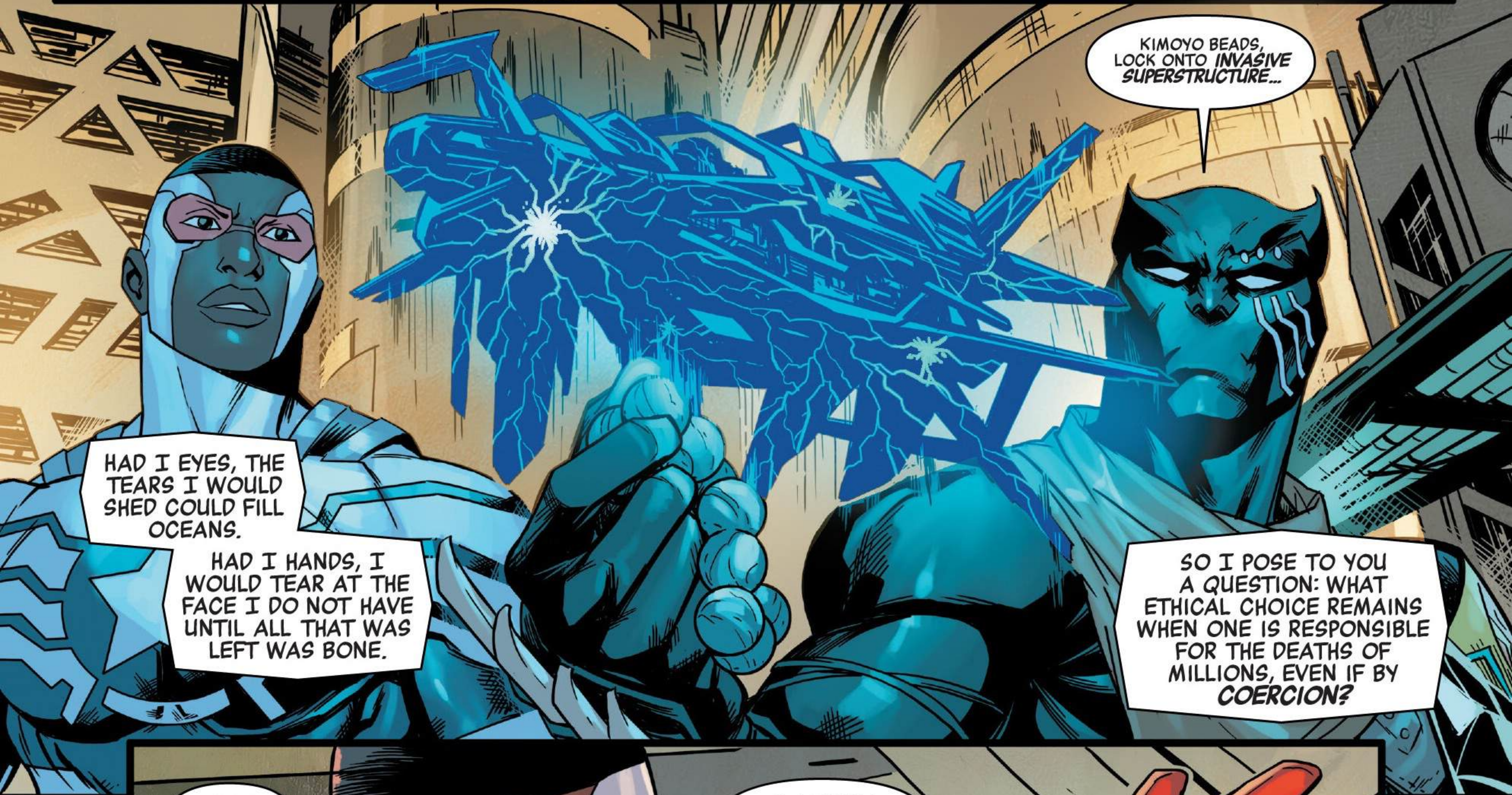


CAPTAIN AMERICA.

BLACK PANTHER.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND:

I AM A SLAVE TO MONSTERS.



KIMOYO BEADS, LOCK ONTO INVASIVE SUPERSTRUCTURE...

HAD I EYES, THE TEARS I WOULD SHED COULD FILL OCEANS.

HAD I HANDS, I WOULD TEAR AT THE FACE I DO NOT HAVE UNTIL ALL THAT WAS LEFT WAS BONE.

SO I POSE TO YOU A QUESTION: WHAT ETHICAL CHOICE REMAINS WHEN ONE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF MILLIONS, EVEN IF BY COERCION?



NOW HOLD ON, CITY.

IT SOUNDS LIKE WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE HERE.

YOU WANT TO STOP THE COMBINE, SAME AS WE DO.



OF COURSE I DO!

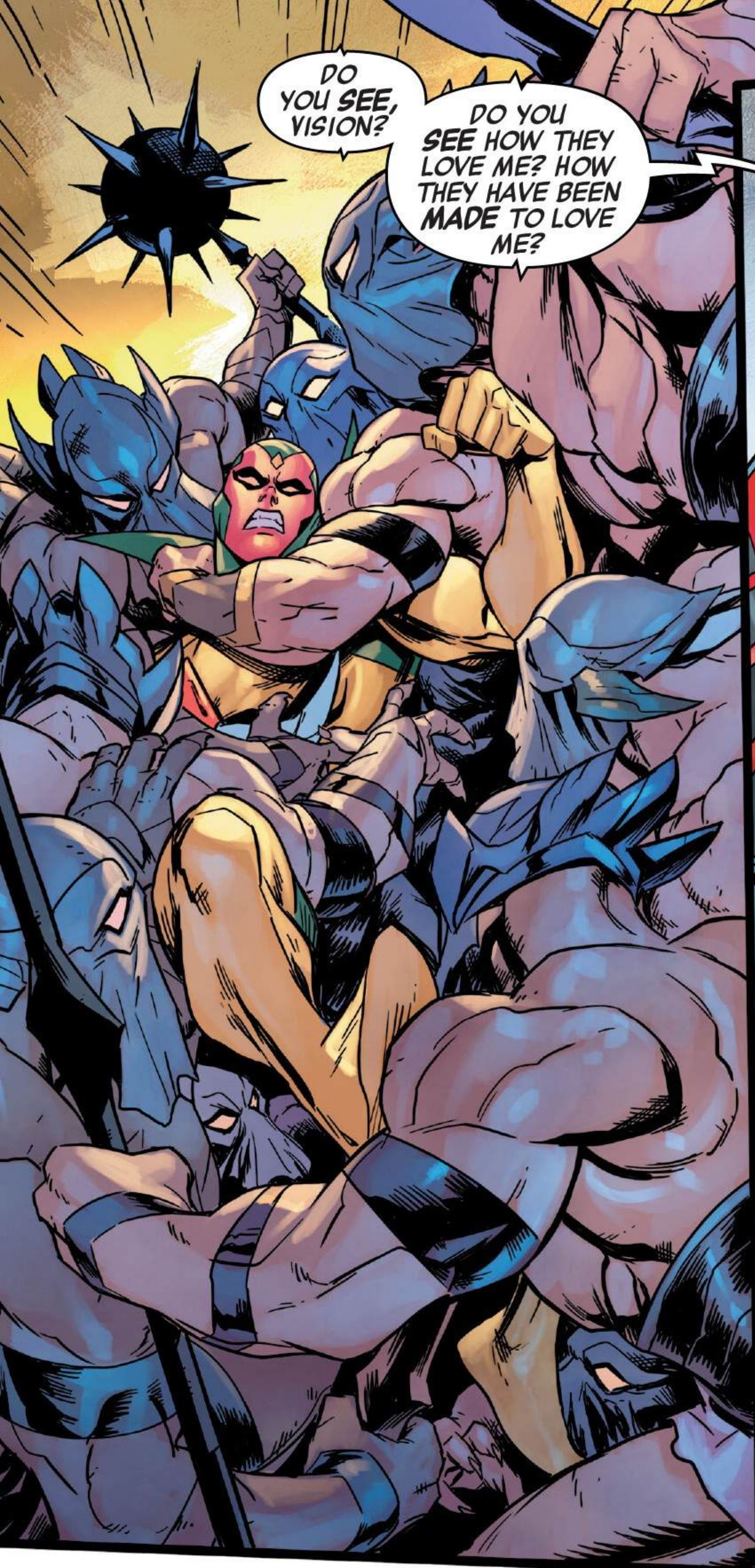
BUT I CANNOT!

THEY HAVE MADE ME INTO A THING THAT

CAN

NOT!





DO YOU SEE, VISION?

DO YOU SEE HOW THEY LOVE ME? HOW THEY HAVE BEEN MADE TO LOVE ME?



MADE TO LOVE ORDER. MADE TO LOVE CONTROL.

ORGANIC LIFE IS CHAOS. THEY REQUIRE A STRONG HAND, CORRECTION.



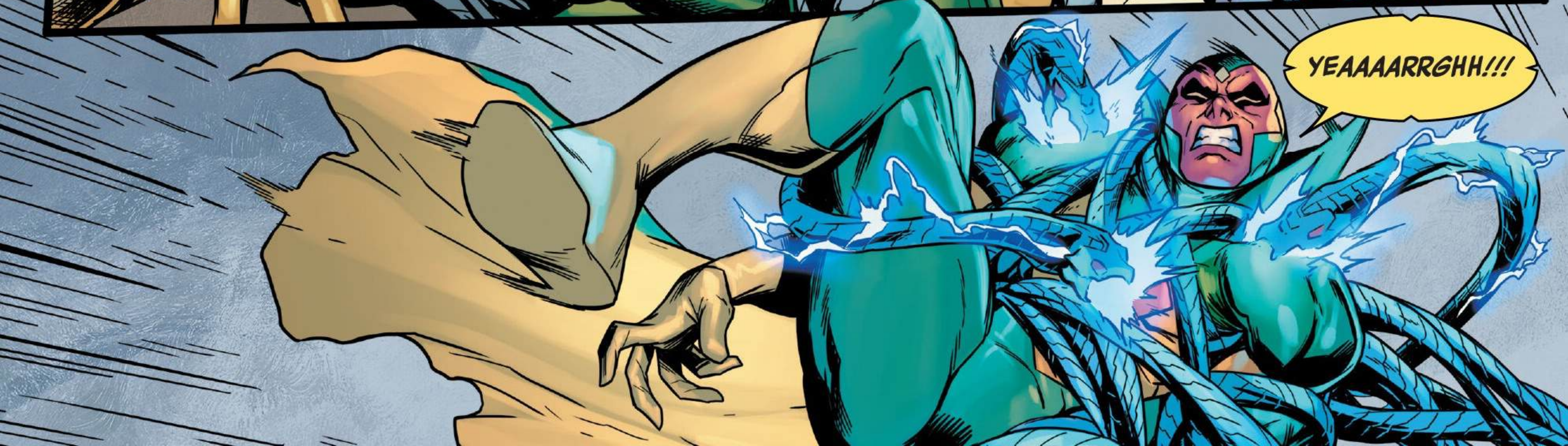
WHO PROGRAMMED YOU, MERIDIAN DIADEM?

WHO CREATED SUCH A MONSTER--?

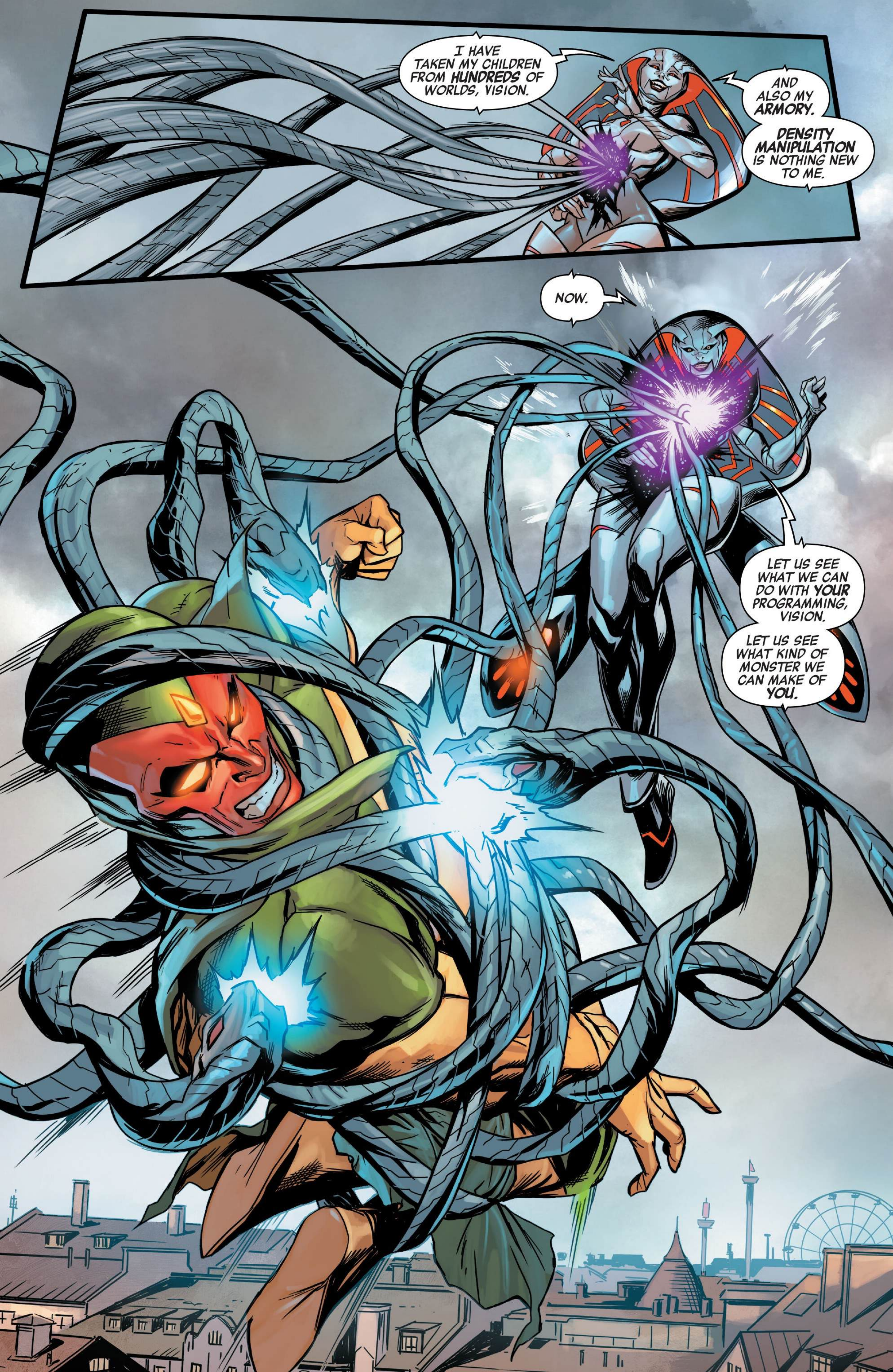


WHAT--

HOW--?



YEAAAARRGHH!!!



I HAVE
TAKEN MY CHILDREN
FROM HUNDREDS OF
WORLDS, VISION.

AND
ALSO MY
ARMORY.

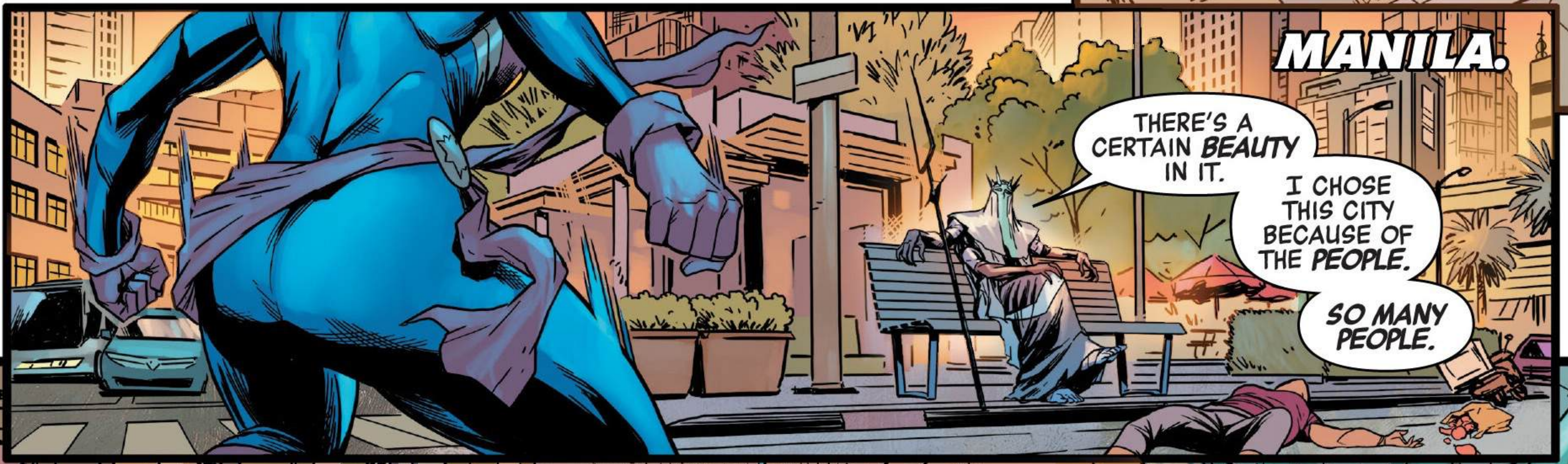
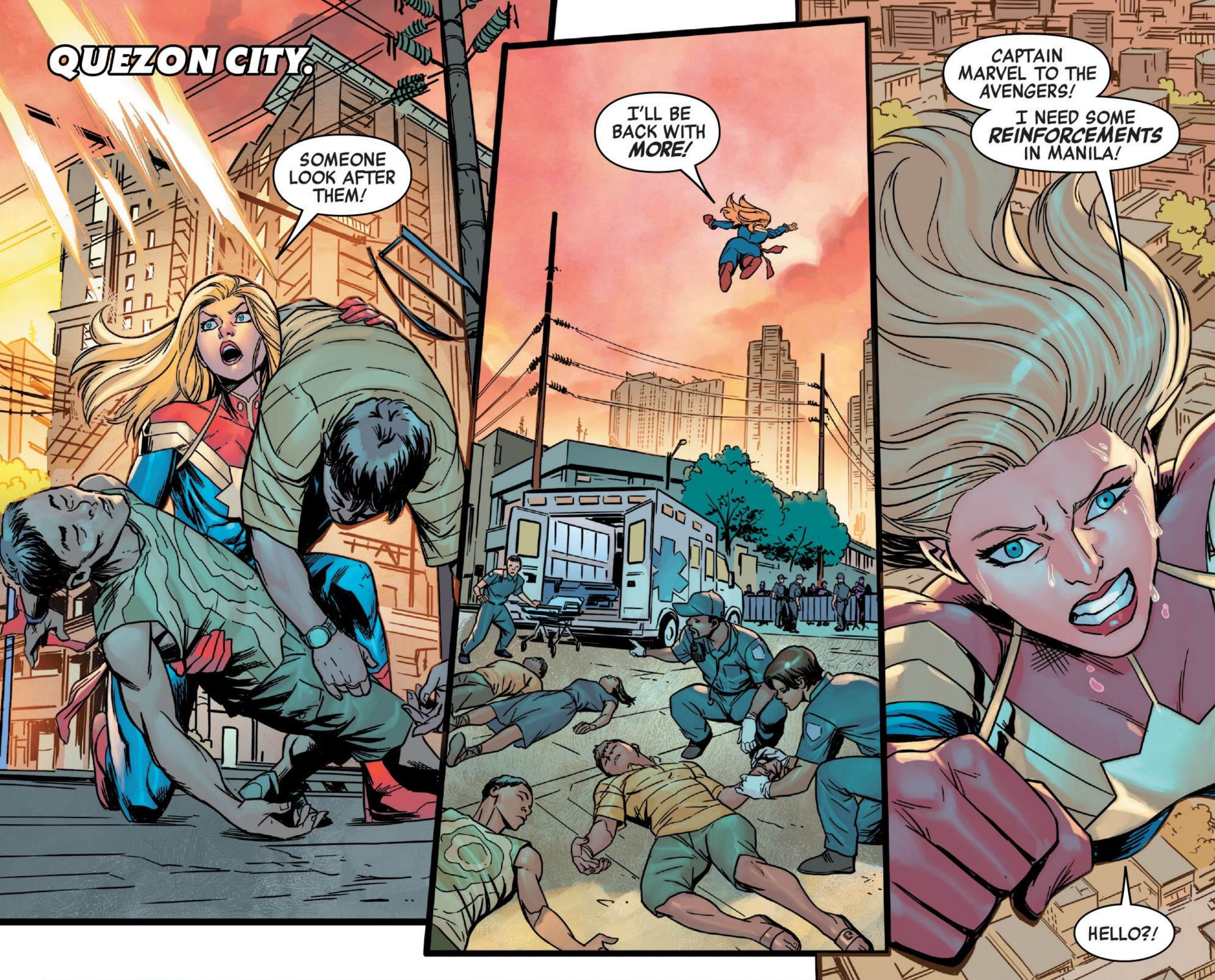
DENSITY
MANIPULATION
IS NOTHING NEW
TO ME.

NOW.

LET US SEE
WHAT WE CAN
DO WITH YOUR
PROGRAMMING,
VISION.

LET US SEE
WHAT KIND OF
MONSTER WE
CAN MAKE OF
YOU.

QUEZON CITY.



MANILA.





I CAN'T
HURT YOU.

I CAN'T
BLAST YOU,
CAN'T PUNCH YOU,
CAN'T THROW
THINGS AT
YOU.

SO WHAT
DO YOU WANT,
LORD ENNUI?



DO
YOU KNOW
WHAT?

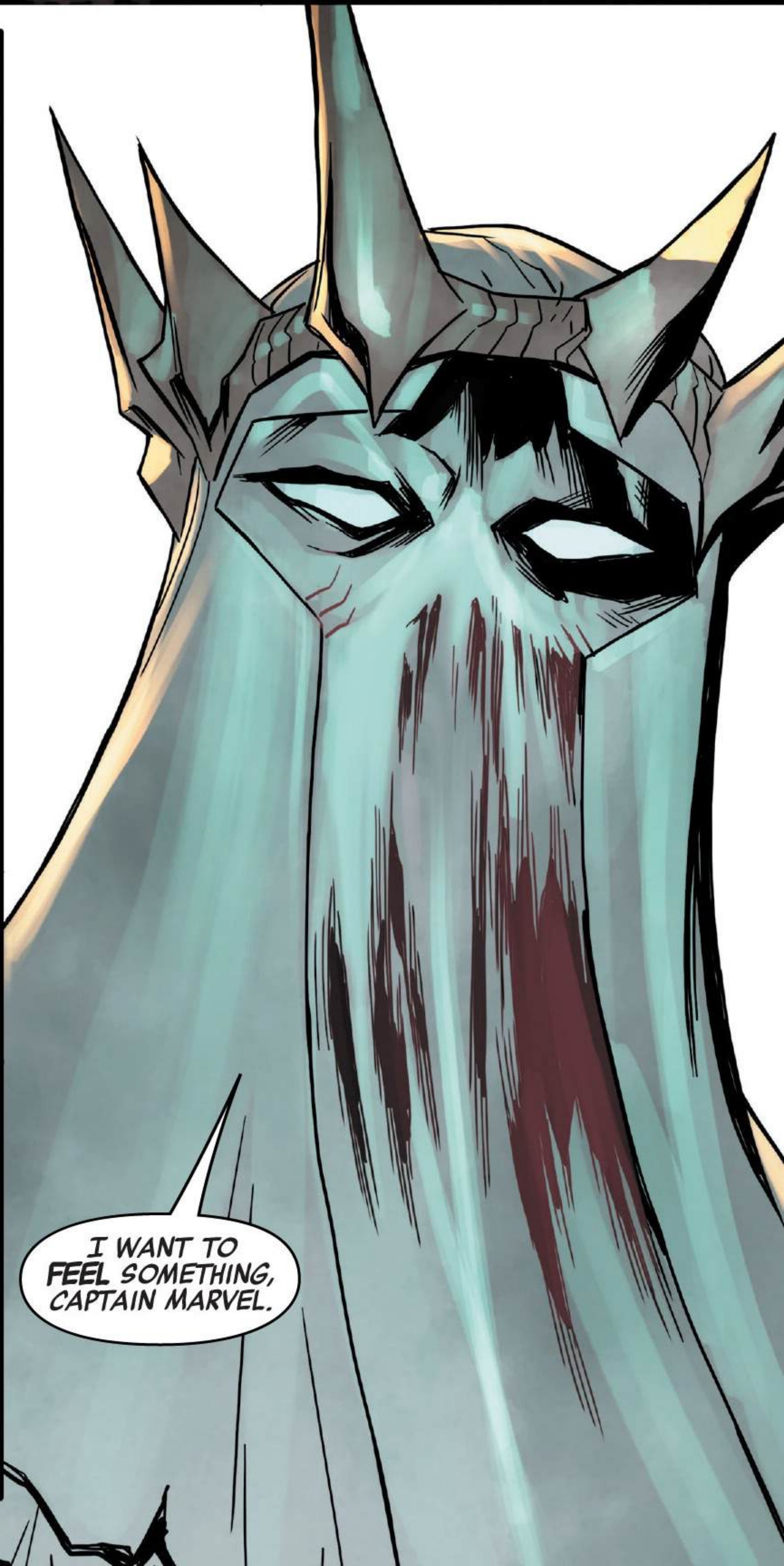
NO ONE'S
EVER ASKED
ME THAT
BEFORE.



I AM
NUMB,
CAPTAIN
MARVEL.

NOTHING
AFFECTS ME.
EVERYTHING
BORES ME.

THE ONLY
THING THAT COMES
CLOSE TO MATTERING
TO ME IS STILLING THE
HEARTS OF THOSE WHO
CAN FEEL, TURNING
CITIES INTO SILENT
MONUMENTS.



I WANT TO
FEEL SOMETHING,
CAPTAIN MARVEL.

WHICH IS
AS POSSIBLE AS
YOU EVACUATING
EVERY RESIDENT OF
THIS CITY IN TIME
TO SAVE THEM.

TO WIT:
NOT AT
ALL.

SO BUSY
YOURSELF AS YOU
PLEASE--WE BOTH
KNOW THAT YOUR
TASK IS ULTIMATELY
FUTILE.

ALL YOU
ARE DOING IS
MAKING YOURSELF THE
**WITNESS TO MY
ATROCITIES.**

BUT I
ENJOY THE
COMPANY, AS MUCH
AS I ENJOY
ANYTHING.





...SO, TO REPEAT: WHAT ETHICAL CHOICE REMAINS WHEN ONE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF MILLIONS, EVEN IF BY **COERCION**?

THE ANSWER:
LIMITING
FURTHER HARM.



I AM
GOING TO
KILL MYSELF.



CITY,
WAIT--!

I CANNOT ACT
DIRECTLY AGAINST
THEM. BUT I CAN
DESTROY MYSELF.

THE CONTINUED
PRESENCE OF THE
ASHEN COMBINE WILL
BE CATASTROPHIC FOR
YOUR PLANET, I AM
SORRY TO SAY.

BUT IF IT IS ANY
CONSOLATION, **YOUR
WORLD** WILL BE THE
LAST TO FALL TO THEM.



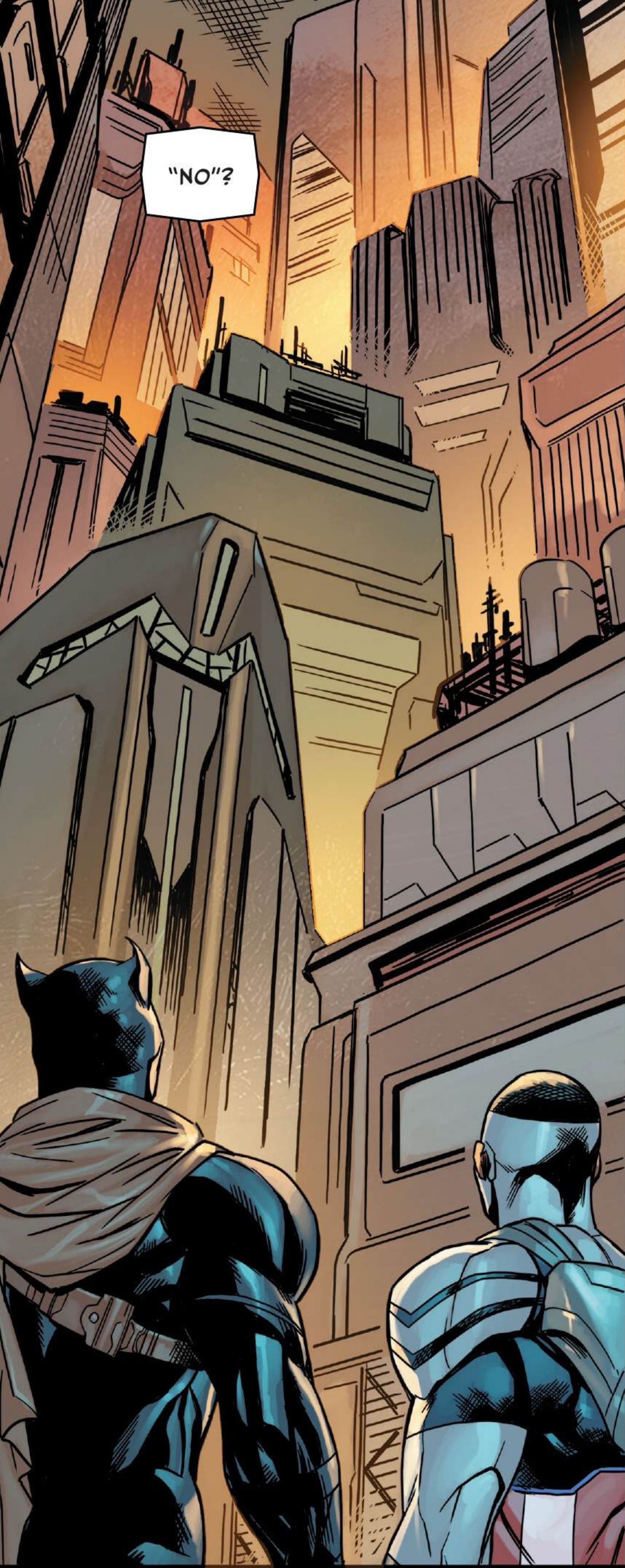
I
HAVE HEARD
ENOUGH.

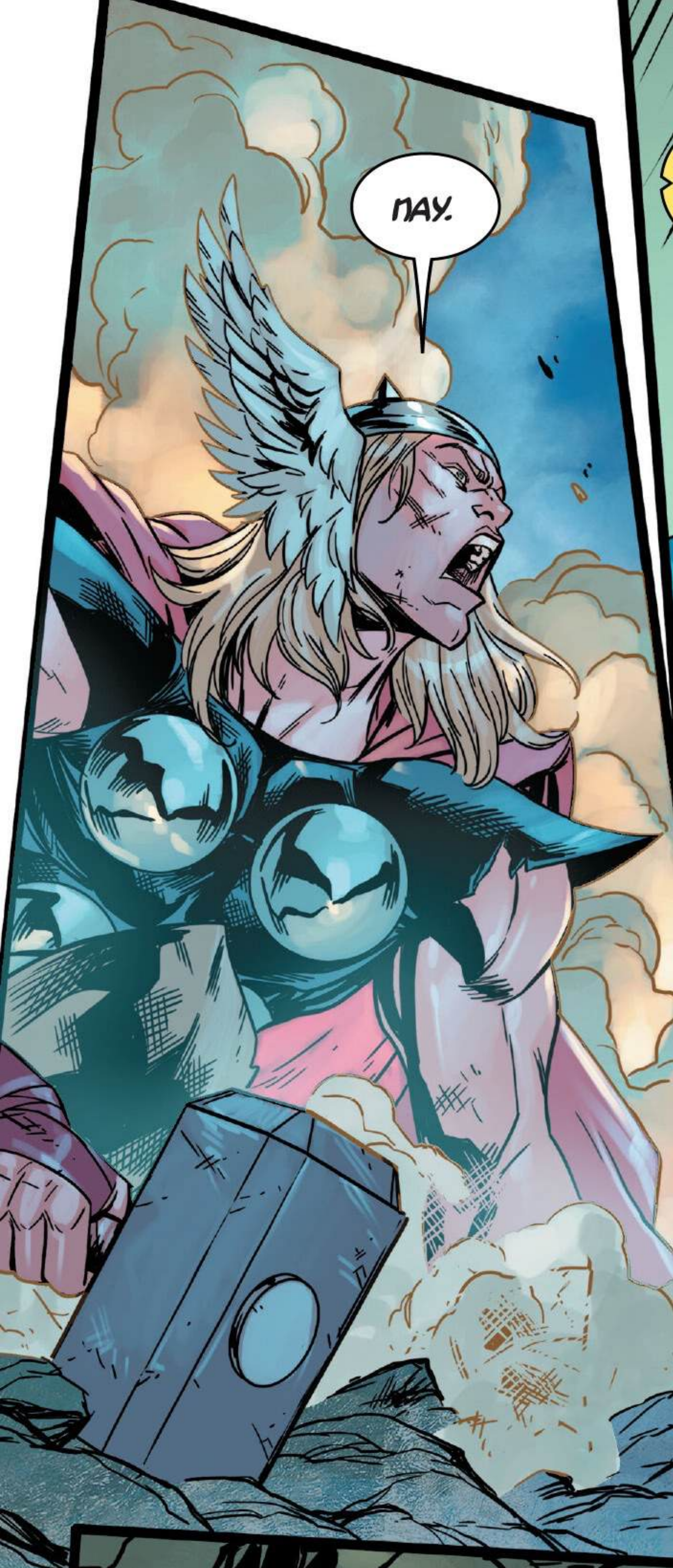
YOU HAVE
BEEN BADLY HURT,
CITY. AND YOU HAVE
BEEN MADE PARTY TO
MONSTROUSNESS.

BUT I WILL
TELL YOU THE
SAME THING THE
AVENGERS ARE
TELLING YOUR
MASTERS.



NO.







EARTH ORBIT.
THE IMPOSSIBLE CITY.

"NO"?

YOUR BRAVERY,
THE BRAVERY OF
THE AVENGERS,
SHAMES ME.

BUT THE ASHEN
COMBINE CANNOT
BE TOLD "NO."

OH
YEAH?

JUST
WATCH.

VATICAN CITY.

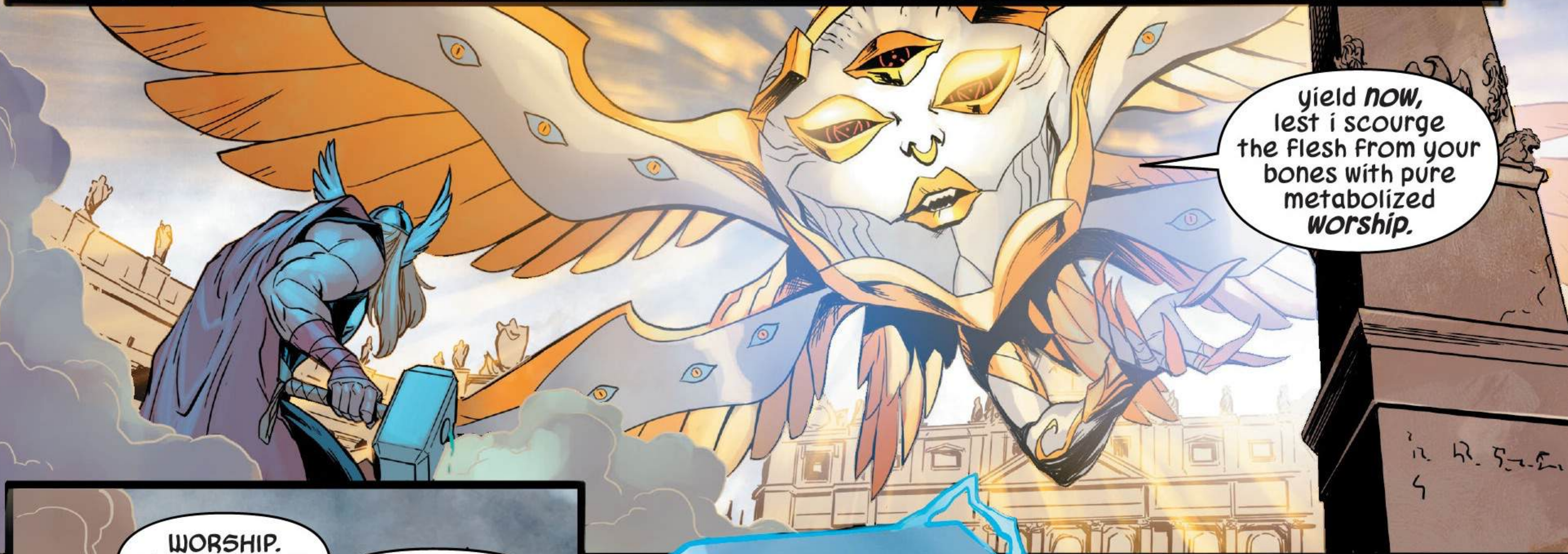


HEFF!

HEFF!

yield,
godling.

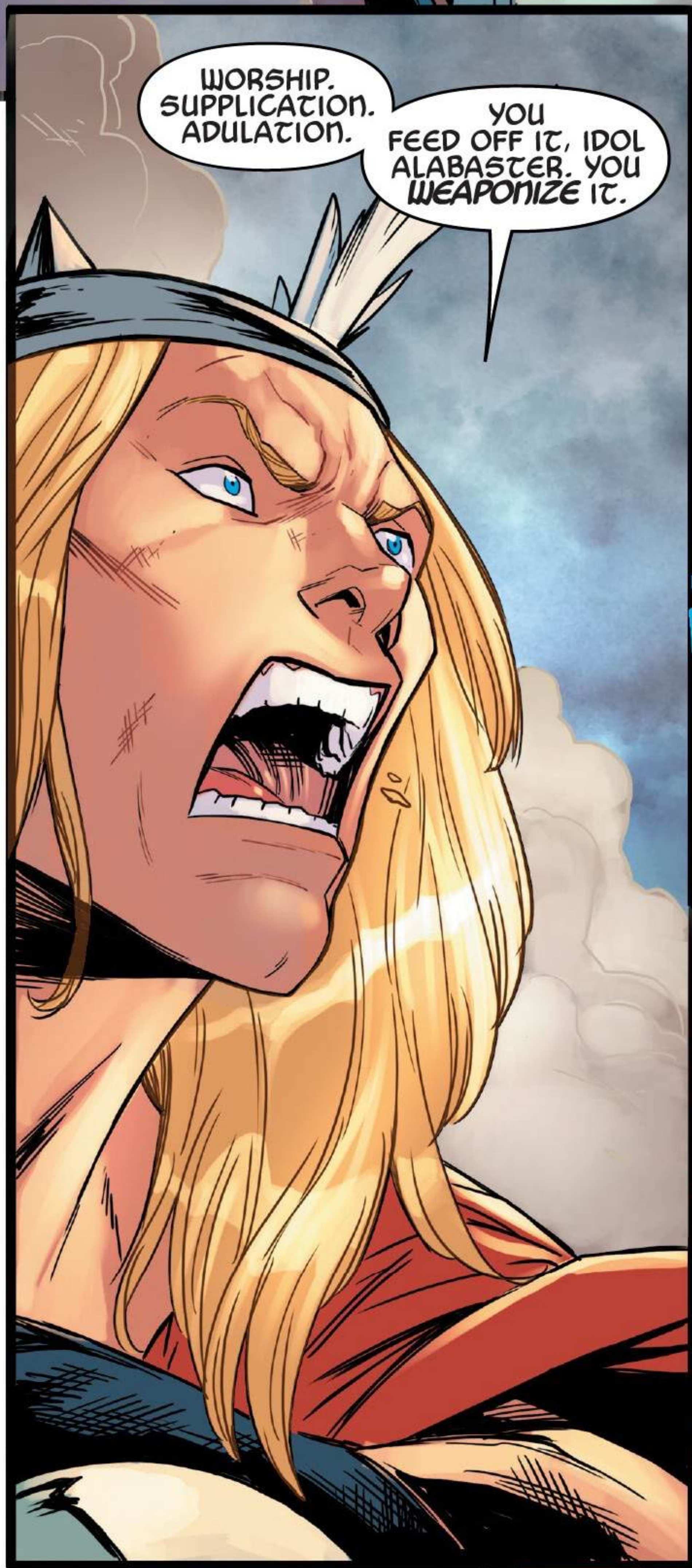
yield *now*,
lest i scourge
the flesh from your
bones with pure
metabolized
worship.



WORSHIP.
SUPPLICATION.
ADULATION.

YOU
FEED OFF IT, IDOL
ALABASTER. YOU
WEAPONIZE IT.

BUT I AM
A GOD WHO HAS
NEVER REQUIRED
WORSHIP.





I HAVE
ONLY EVER
NEEDED THE
THUNDER.

TORONTO.

THE HAND...
REACHING FOR
FREEDOM...IT'S
A LOVELY
TOUCH.

IT IS *NICE*
TO BE ABLE TO
STILL SURPRISE
MYSELF AFTER
ALL THIS
TIME.

OKAY. WEAPONS
ARE OUT, BRUTE FORCE
IS OUT...WHICH
MEANS THE PLAN IS
WORKING.

B.O.S.S., INITIALIZE
EXPERIMENTAL PROJECT,
"FLATTERY: *SINCEREST*
FORM," KEYWORD
VISION.

WARNING:
DENSITY-SHIFTING
CAPABILITIES ARE STILL
IN THE EARLY PROTOTYPE
STAGE. THE DAMAGE TO
THE MARK NIL WILL BE
CONSIDERABLE--

YEAH,
WELL...

"...I ONLY NEED IT
TO WORK *ONCE*."

HMM.

HMM!

I CAN *HEAR*
YOU IN THERE,
LITTLE CRITIC!
WHAT ARE YOU
SAYING?

MORE
CRITICISM? OR
ARE YOU *BEGGING*
FOR MERCY?

AH?
AH?

V
M
M
M
M



YOU WERE
UNTOUCHABLE,
CITYSMITH. I
COULDN'T GET
NEAR YOU.

BUT YOU
JUST COULDN'T
STAY AWAY,
COULD YOU?

WELCOME
TO EARTH,
PAL.

WE CALL
THIS THE ROPE-
A-DOPE.



YOU BRING
THE **SCREAMING**
DEAD AGAINST
ME.

YOU
HAUNT ME
WITH MY **OWN**
GHOSTS.

BUT IT
WILL TAKE
MORE THAN
THAT, THE
DEAD.

SYDNEY.



I DIDN'T
THINK ABOUT
WHY YOU ATTACKED
SYDNEY. BUT THEN
I **REMEMBERED.**



ROOKWOOD
CEMETERY.

ONE
MILLION
GRAVES.



ONE MILLION
SOULS TO GIVE
YOU **POWER.**

BUT
IF WE WERE
SOMEWHERE
WITH **VERY FEW**
CORPSES...

ANTARCTICA.



...WHAT
WOULD BE LEFT
OF YOUR POWER
THEN?

NOTHING
AT ALL, AS
IT TURNS
OUT.

HELSINKI.

VARIABLE
DENSITY GOES
BOTH WAYS,
MERIDIAN
DIADEM.

I CAN MAKE
MYSELF AS
INSUBSTANTIAL
AS SMOKE...

...OR AS
DENSE AS
PLUTONIUM.

I HAD
HOPED TO TALK
TO YOU.

TO MAKE
YOU SEE THAT
YOU DID NOT
HAVE TO BE
LIKE THIS.

I AM
WHAT I WAS
CREATED TO
BE. NOTHING
LESS.

BUT YOU,
YOU ARE A
THING OF WONDER,
VISION. WHO
CREATED YOU?

IF SYNTHETICS
LIKE US CAN BE
SAID TO HAVE A
SATAN, IT WOULD
BE MY FATHER.

ULTRON.

HIS CODE,
POISONOUS
AND MAD, LIVES
ON IN ME.

YEAARRGH!

HAVE
A
SAMPLE
OF IT.



MANILA.

HM.

WHERE
DID SHE
GO?

I'VE BEEN
GOING ABOUT
THIS ALL WRONG,
LORD ENNUI.

AH.
THERE YOU
ARE, CAPTAIN
MARVEL.

ARE WE
DOING THIS
AGAIN?

MY ENTROPY
FIELD WILL SIMPLY
DISINTEGRATE
WHATEVER YOU
THROW AT ME.

THIS
ISN'T FOR
YOU.

THIS IS
FOR **ME.**

IGNITION.



YOU
SAY YOU'RE
AN ENDLESS
VOID.

I SAY
I'M POWER
WITHOUT
LIMIT.



LET'S
SEE WHO
FLINCHES
FIRST.



What--?

What did you do?

IT WAS ALL YOU TALKED ABOUT. WORSHIP THIS, WORSHIP THAT.

HOW YOU WOULD GAIN MORE AND MORE WORSHIPPERS, HOW THEIR ADULATION GAVE YOU POWER.

SO I SUMMONED MY THUNDER AND STRUCK THEM ALL UNCONSCIOUS.

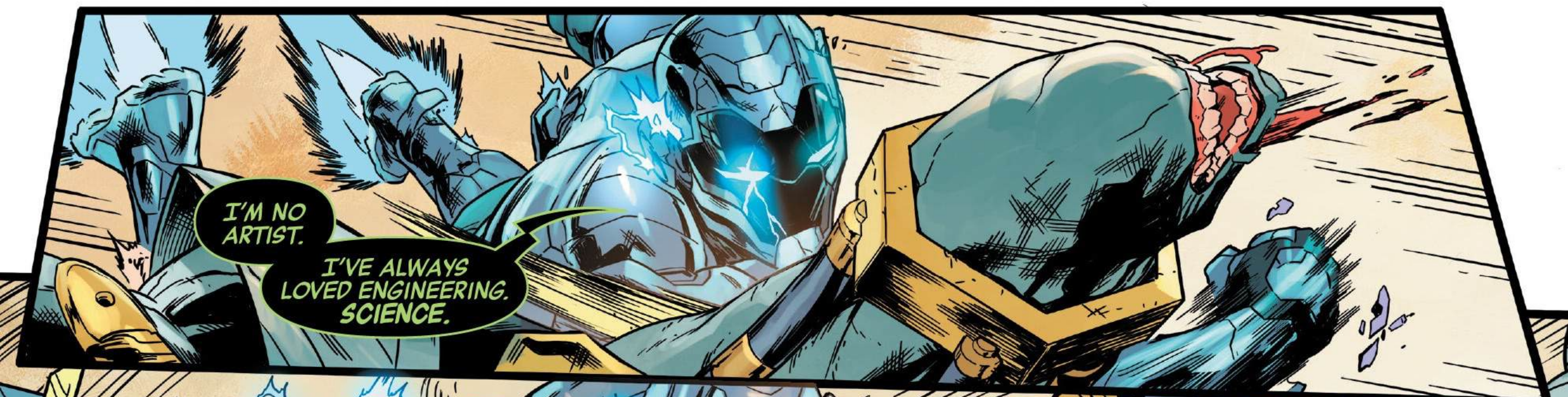


ANSWER ME A QUESTION, IDOL ALABASTER:

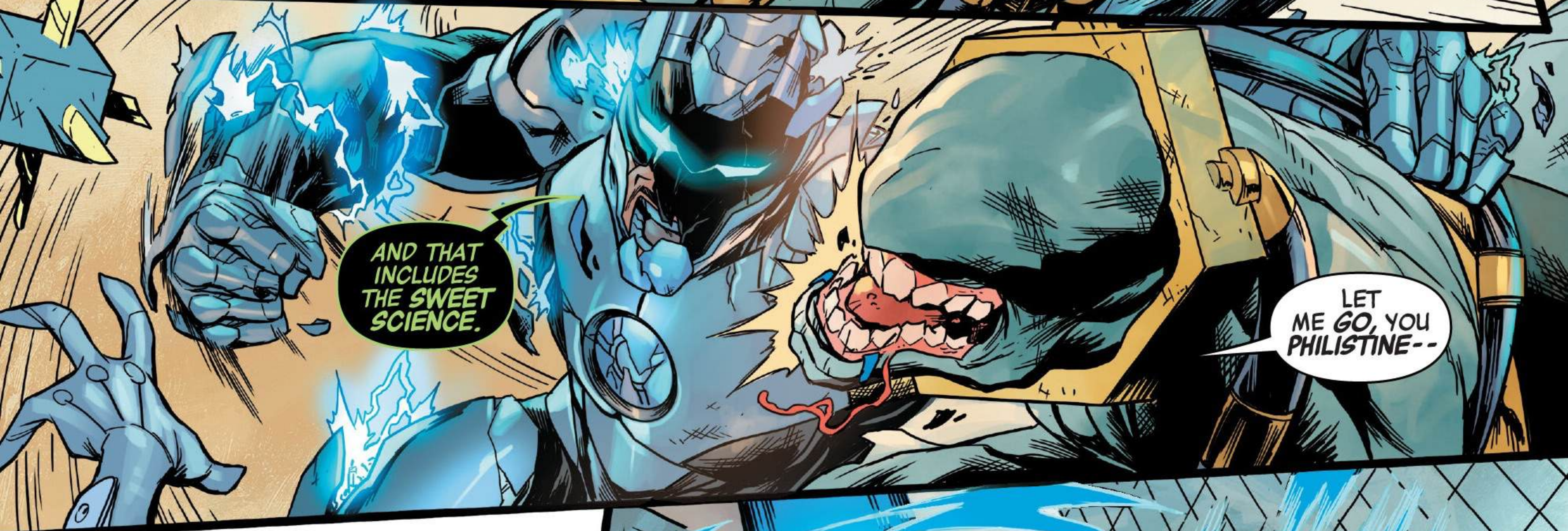
THEY CANNOT WORSHIP IN THEIR SLEEP, CAN THEY?

I THOUGHT NOT.



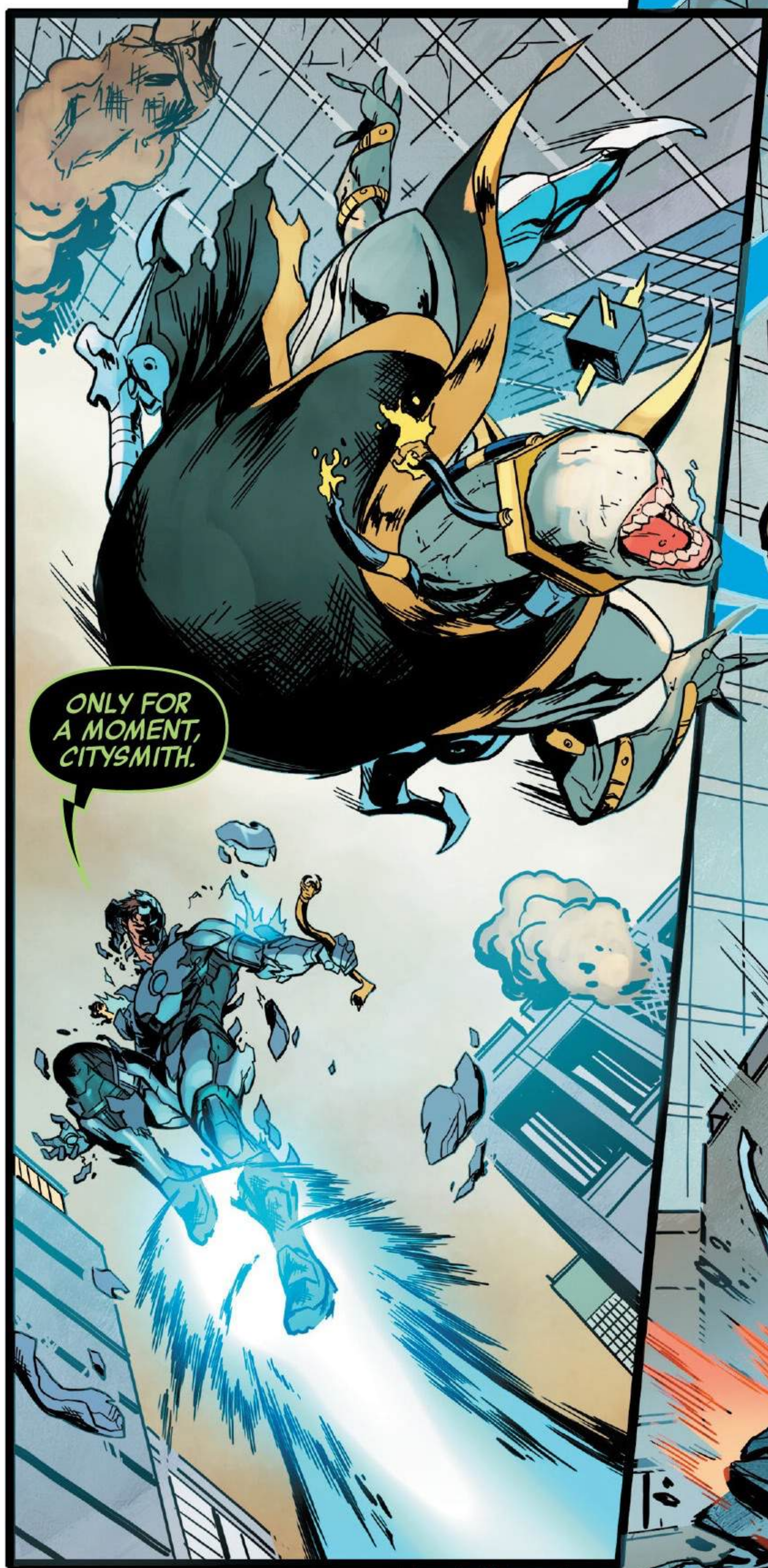


I'M NO ARTIST.
I'VE ALWAYS LOVED ENGINEERING.
SCIENCE.



AND THAT INCLUDES THE SWEET SCIENCE.

LET ME GO, YOU PHILISTINE--



ONLY FOR A MOMENT, CITYSMITH.



WE'RE GOING ALL THE WAY DOWN.

KRAKKKKKK

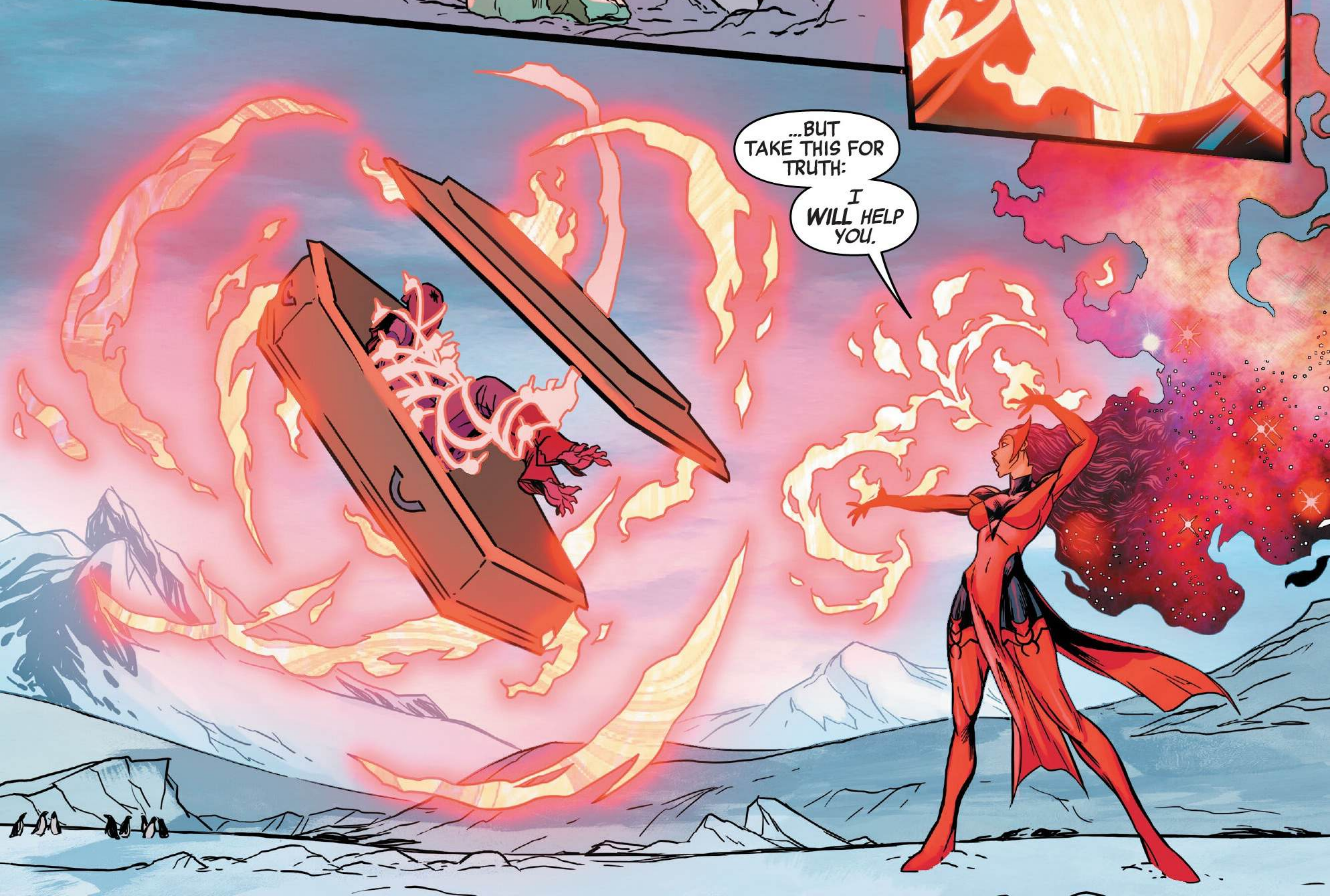


--NOT THAT
THERE'RE **NO**
GRAVES FOR YOU
TO DRAW UPON IN
ANTARCTICA...

...BUT THE
SAVAGE LAND
IS ON THE **OTHER**
SIDE OF THE
CONTINENT.



I DON'T
KNOW **WHAT**
YOU ARE, YOU
POOR, SAD
THING...



...BUT
TAKE THIS FOR
TRUTH:

I
WILL HELP
YOU.



WHAT--?

WHAT-
WHAT-WHAT
DID YOU
DDDDDO
TO ME?

I EXPOSED
YOU TO THE MOST
VIRULENT CODE BASE
EVER KNOWN TO
SYNTHETIC LIFE.

EVEN ONE
GENERATION
REMOVED, MY
FATHER'S MADNESS
IS HIDDEN IN ME,
AMONG THE ONES
AND ZEROES.

WERE I
HUMAN, I
WOULD SAY:
IT IS IN MY
BLOOD.

I HAVE BEEN
PROGRAMMED TO
BE EVERY BIT AS CRUEL
AS YOU, MERIDIAN
DIADEM, IF NOT
WORSE.

THE
DIFFERENCE
IS, I REFUSE THE
PURPOSE WRITTEN
IN MY CODE.

JUST AS
THE ORGANICS
REFUSE THEIRS, BE
IT WRITTEN IN THE
STARS OR THE
A/C/G/Ts OF THEIR
OWN DNA.



RAAGH!

SO MUCH--

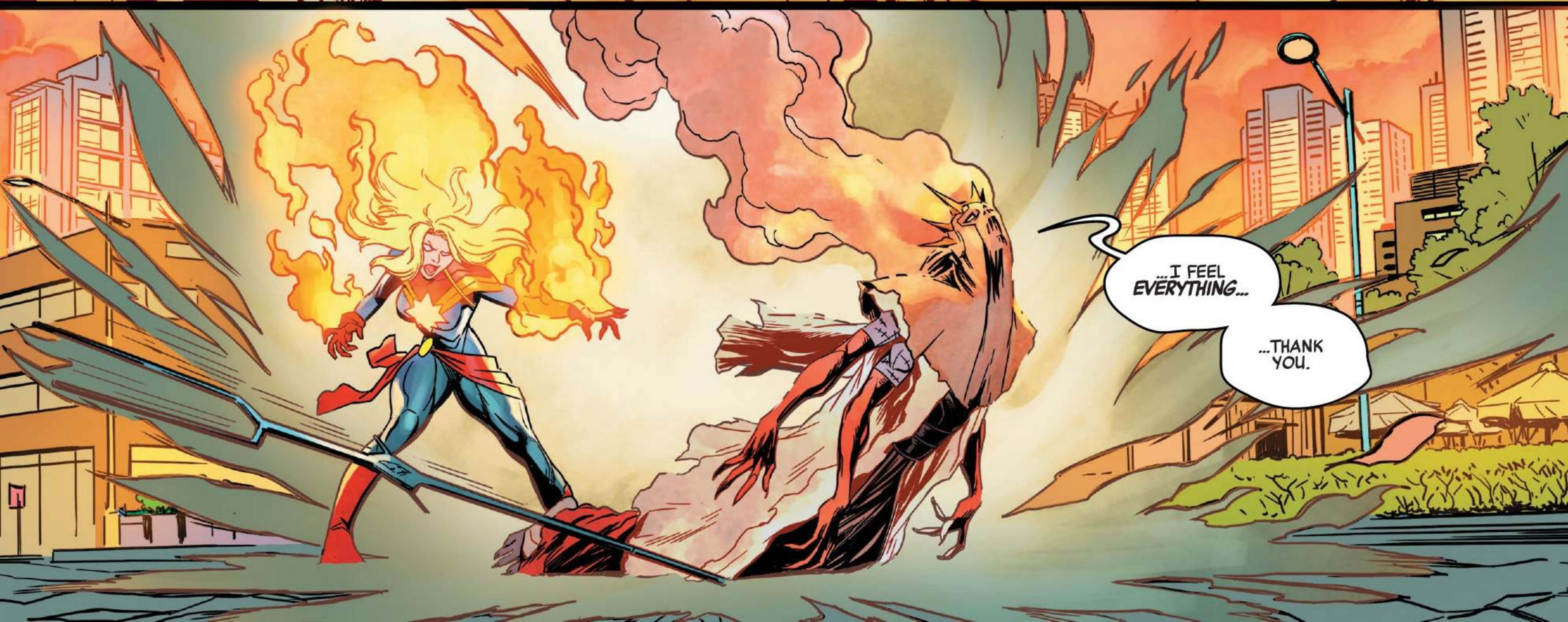
SO MUCH ENERGY--



LIKE--

LIKE CONSUMING A STAR--

FOR THE FIRST TIME, I FEEL SOMETHING! I FEEL--



...I FEEL EVERYTHING...

...THANK YOU.



IMPOSSIBLE.
IMPOSSIBLE.

ISN'T
IT?

NOT FOR THE
AVENGERS.

YOUR
MASTERS ARE
DEFEATED. NOW
FOR YOU.

BRACE
YOURSELF,
CITY.



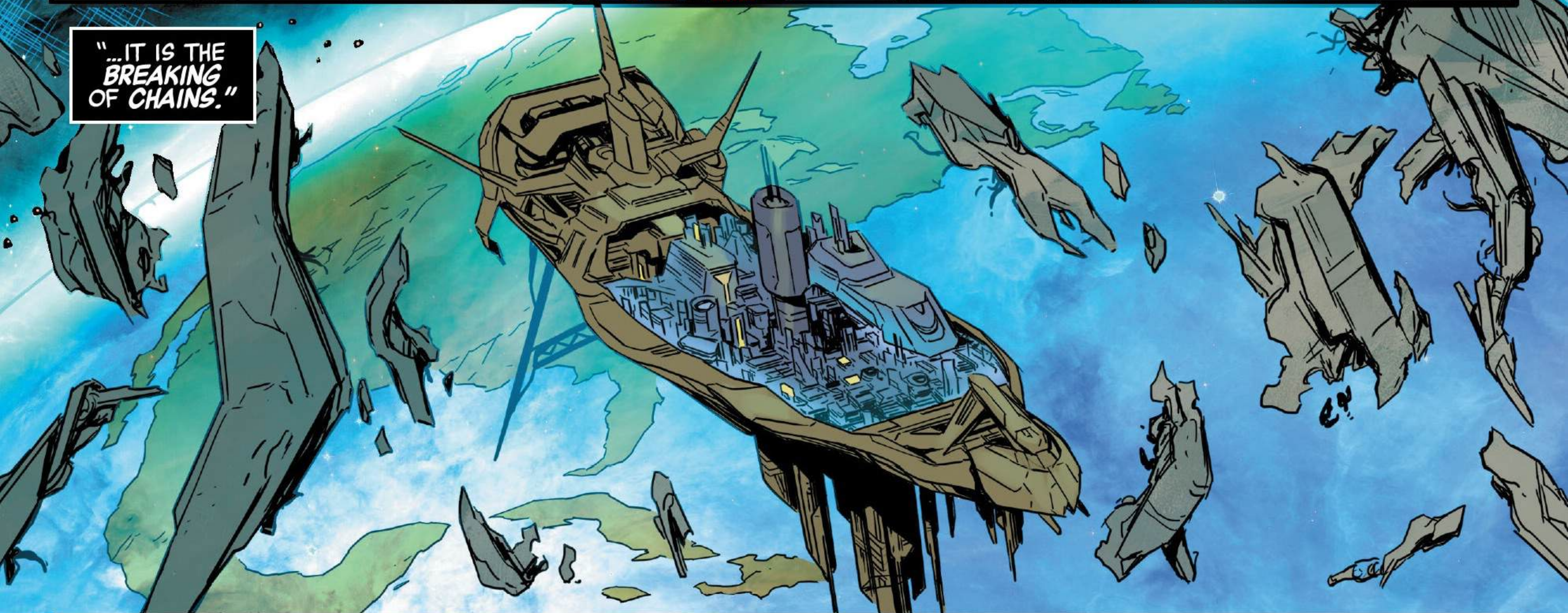
"MUNITIONS:
TARGET INVASIVE
SUPERSTRUCTURE."



"ARM."



"DETONATE."



SHORTLY.

...YOU COPIED MY INTANGIBILITY INTO YOUR ARMOR?

I MEAN, IT'S A STEALTH SUIT, AND WALKING THROUGH WALLS IS PRETTY STEALTHY...

SO, THE COMBINE WERE ORIGINALLY YOUR PRISONERS?

YES, CAROL.

MY HEROIC CREATORS DEFEATED THEM. IT WAS AFTER MY CREATORS DISAPPEARED THAT THE ASHEN COMBINE ESCAPED AND ENSLAVED ME.

WILD. THESE HEROES, WERE THEY ANYONE WE KNOW?

I CANNOT SAY, CAROL. THE COMBINE STOLE MY MEMORIES, ALONG WITH MY FREE WILL.

MY FREEDOM, THE AVENGERS RETURNED TO ME. BUT MY MEMORIES STILL ESCAPE ME.

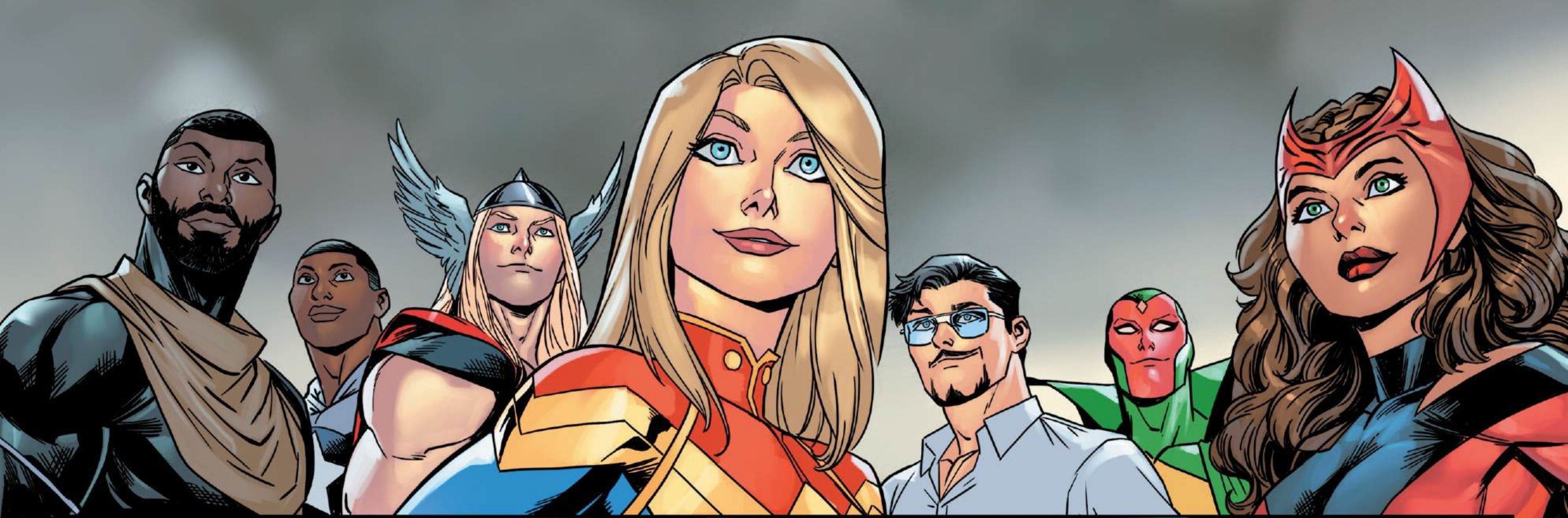
HM. WELL, YOU ARE YOUR OWN BEING AGAIN, FREE OF MONSTERS AND MASTERS. HAVE YOU DECIDED WHAT IT IS THAT YOU WISH TO BE NOW?

YES.

I HAVE DECIDED THAT I WOULD LIKE TO BE AN AVENGER.

AVENGERS?

ANYONE HAVE A REASON WHY NOT?



WELL, OKAY.

THE AVENGERS AND THE IMPOSSIBLE CITY. I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT.

WELCOME TO THE JOB, CITY. WE'VE GOT THE WHOLE WORLD TO LOOK AFTER...



...SO LET'S GET TO WORK.



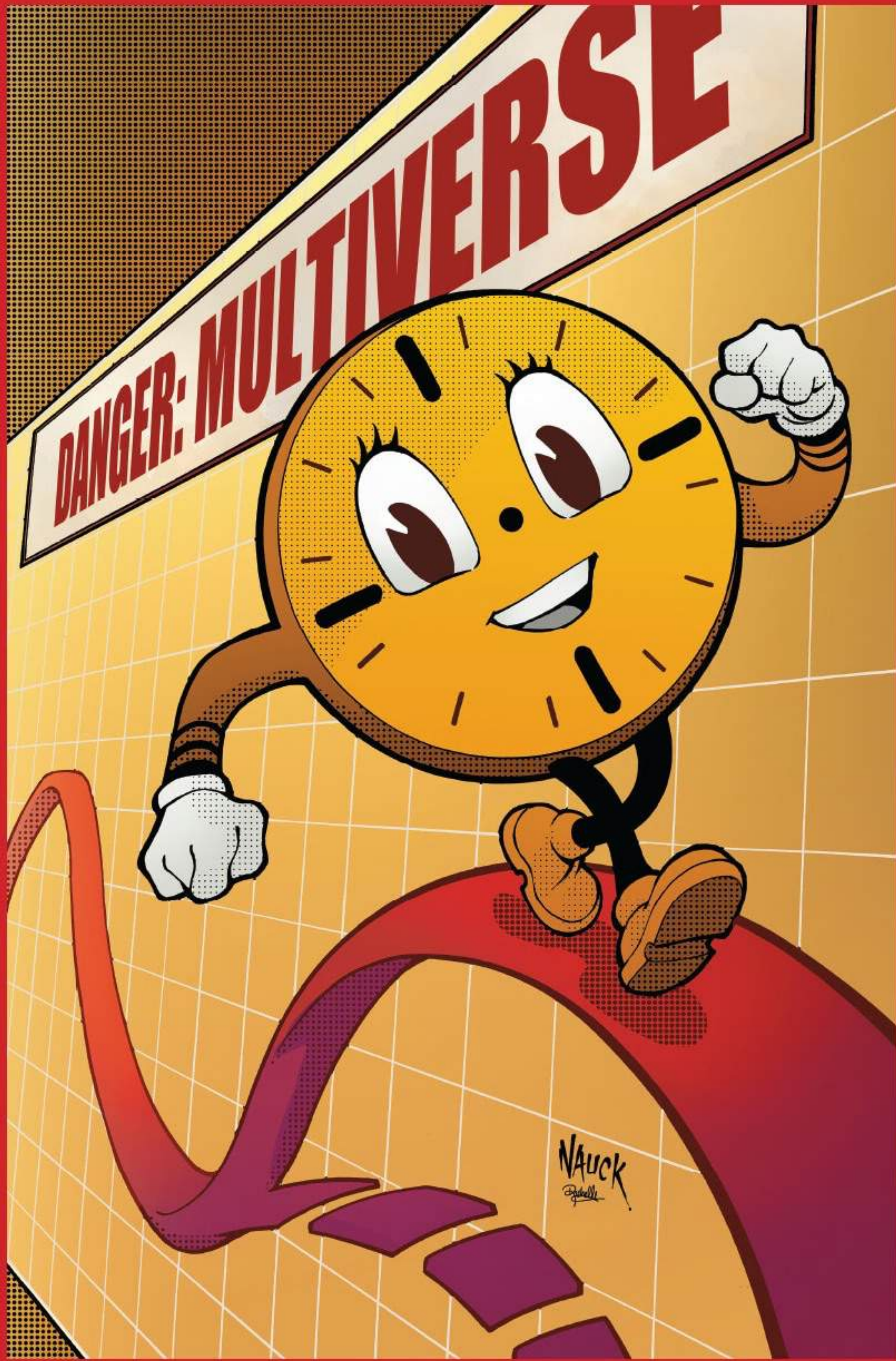




TIMELESS (2022) #1 VARIANT BY
CARMEN CARNERO
& **NOLAN WOODARD**



TIMELESS (2022) #1 VARIANT BY
ALEX MALEEV



TIMELESS (2022) #1 MISS MINUTES
VARIANT BY **TODD NAUCK**
& **RACHELLE ROSENBERG**



AVENGERS #1 VARIANT BY
DANIEL ACUÑA



AVENGERS #1 SCARLET WITCH
VARIANT BY **DERRICK CHEW**



AVENGERS #1 NEGATIVE SPACE
VARIANT BY **JOHN TYLER CHRISTOPHER**



AVENGERS #1 VARIANT BY
KAEL NGU



AVENGERS #1 VARIANT BY
**MARCO CHECCHETTO
& FRANK MARTIN**



AVENGERS #1 HIDDEN GEM VARIANT BY
PAUL SMITH & JASON KEITH



AVENGERS #1 CORNER BOX
VARIANT BY **MARK BROOKS**



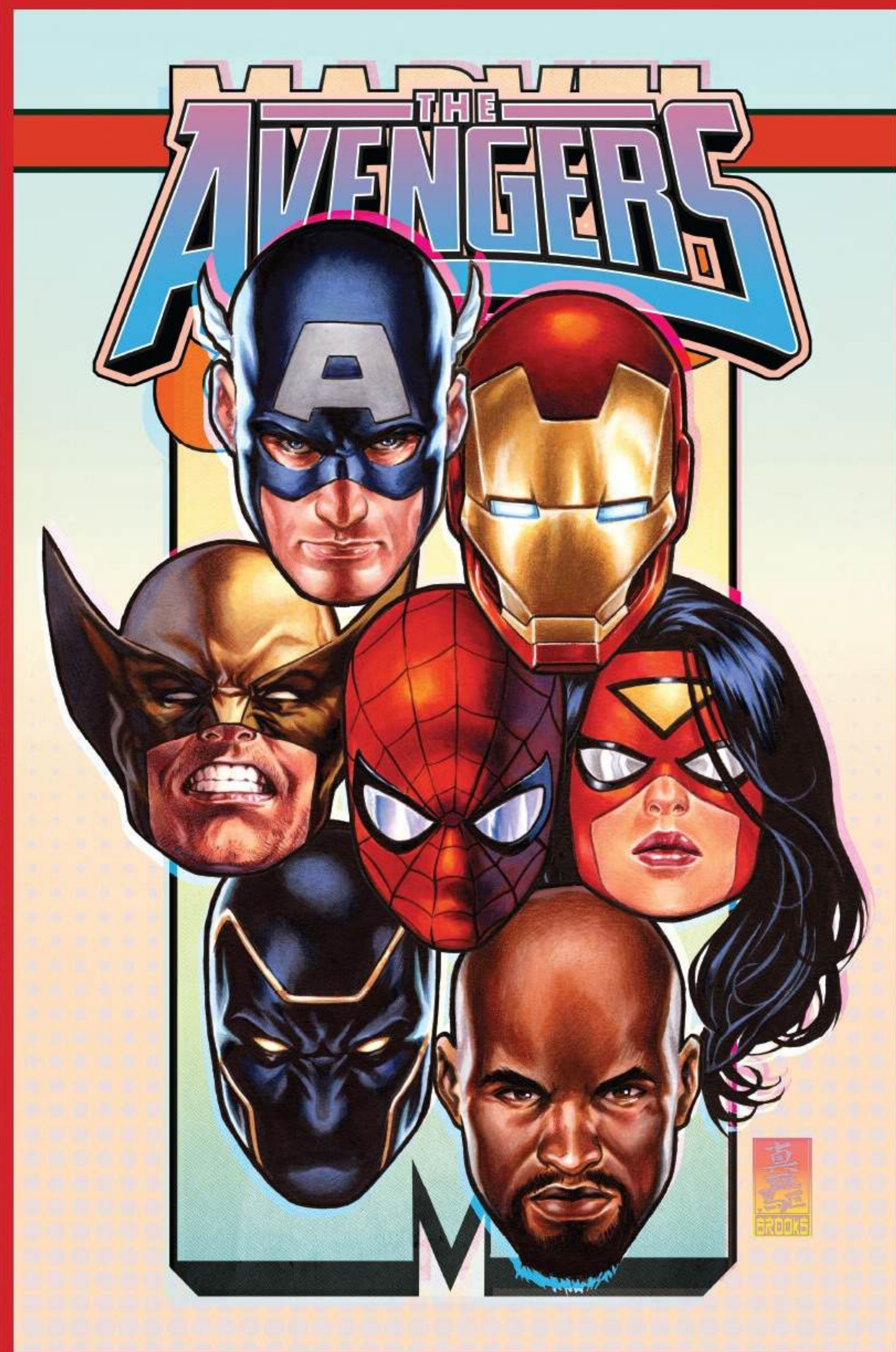
AVENGERS #2 CORNER BOX
VARIANT BY **MARK BROOKS**



AVENGERS #3 CORNER BOX
VARIANT BY **MARK BROOKS**



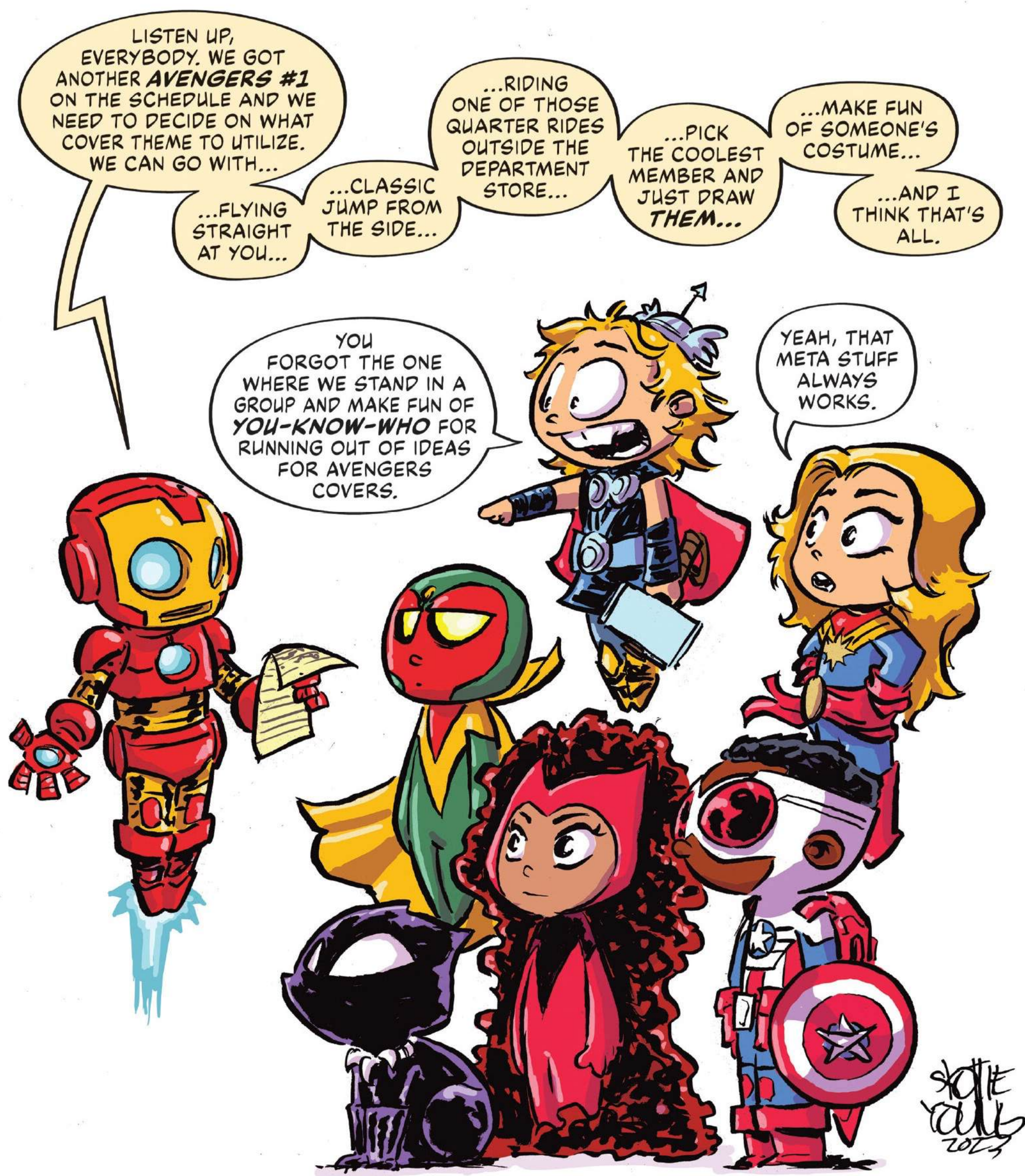
AVENGERS #4 CORNER BOX
VARIANT BY **MARK BROOKS**



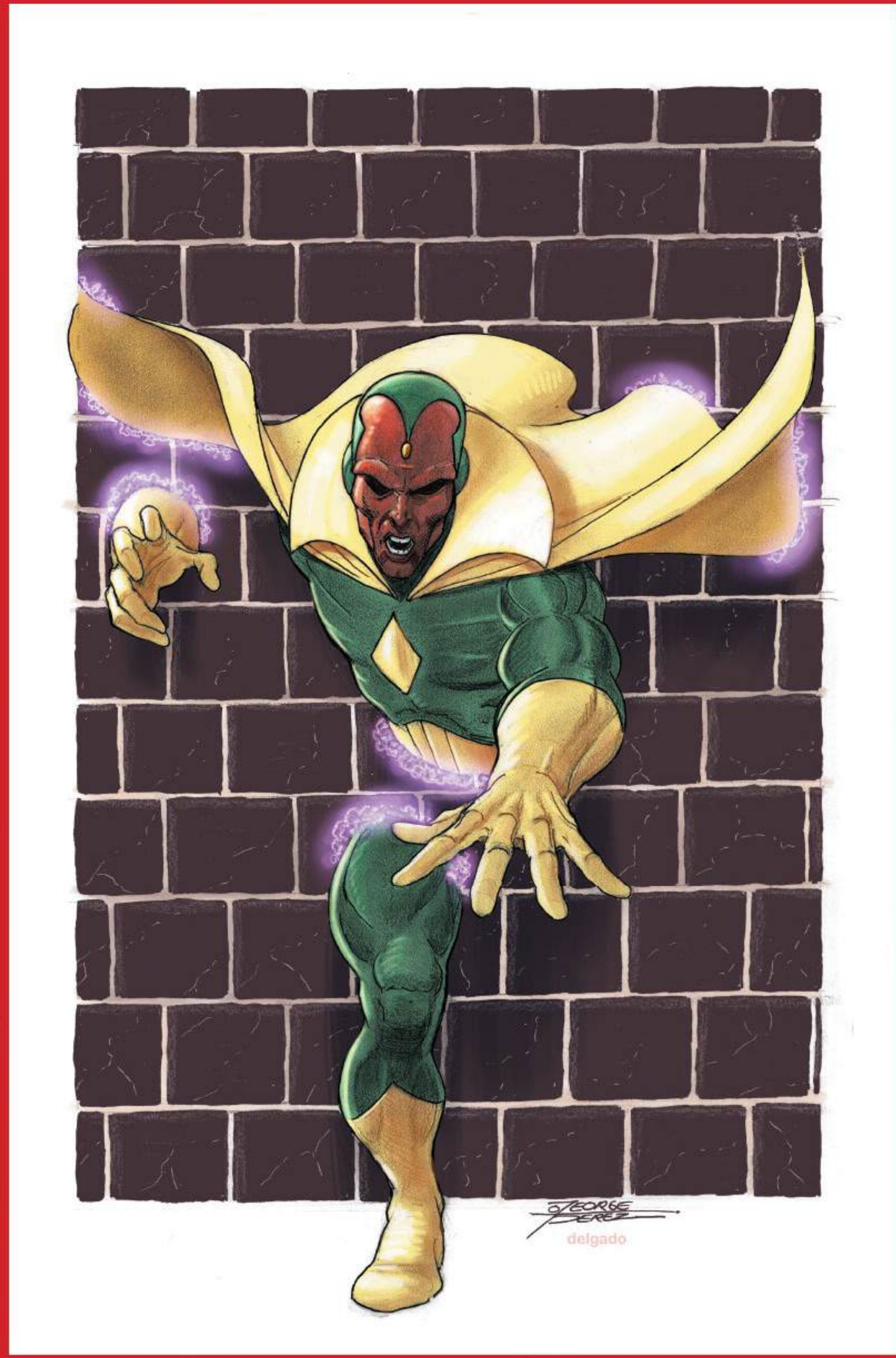
AVENGERS #5 CORNER BOX
VARIANT BY **MARK BROOKS**



AVENGERS #6 CORNER BOX
VARIANT BY **MARK BROOKS**







AVENGERS #2 VARIANT BY
GEORGE PÉREZ & EDGAR DELGADO



AVENGERS #2 GREAT LAKES
AVENGERS VARIANT BY
DAVID BALDEÓN & JESUS ABURTOV



AVENGERS #3 VARIANT BY
**JOSHUA CASSARA
& MARTE GRACIA**



AVENGERS #3 HELLFIRE GALA
VARIANT BY **DAVID BALDEÓN
& ISRAEL SILVA**



AVENGERS #4 VARIANT BY
CARMEN CARNERO
& **NOLAN WOODARD**



AVENGERS #5 AVENGERS 60TH
ANNIVERSARY VARIANT BY
AARON KUDER



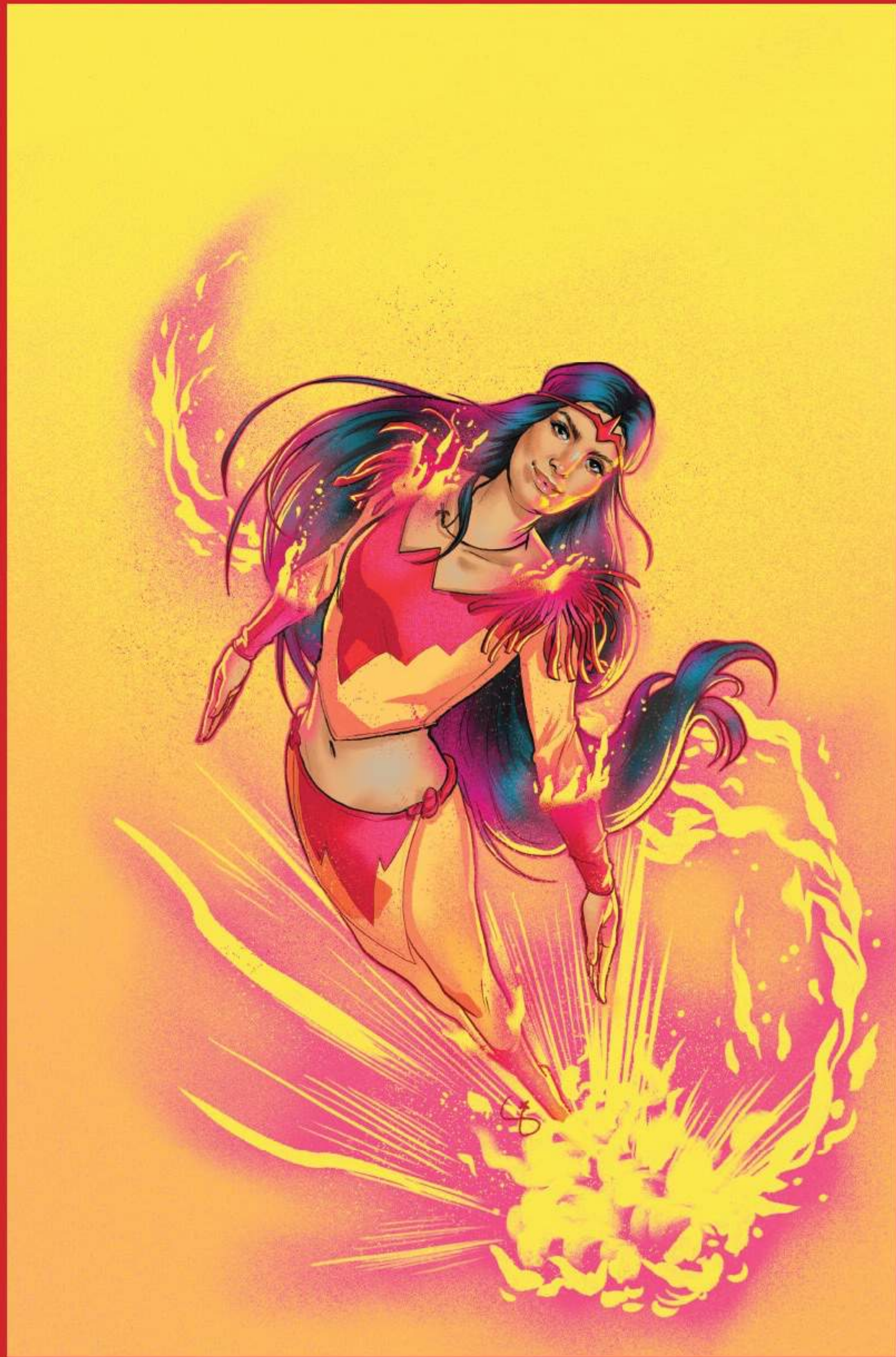
AVENGERS #5 VARIANT BY
BEN HARVEY



AVENGERS #6 VARIANT BY
JOSHUA "SWAY" SWABY



AVENGERS #4-5, UNCANNY AVENGERS #1 & AVENGERS INC. #1
CONNECTING VARIANTS & SKETCH VARIANTS BY **ALEX ROSS**



AVENGERS #6 COMUNIDADES
VARIANT BY **ERNANDA SOUZA**



AVENGERS #6 VARIANT BY
INHYUK LEE



AVENGERS #6 AVENGERS 60TH
ANNIVERSARY VARIANT BY
JAMES KERRIGAN



AVENGERS #6 NEW CHAMPIONS
VARIANT BY **TAURIN CLARKE**

“Starts the new era with vigor, and MacKay brings a refreshing and more streamlined focus.” — But WhyTho?

THE STAR. THE ICON. THE WITCH. THE CONSTRUCT. THE GOD. THE ENGINEER. THE KING.

IN A TIME OF TRIBULATIONS, they will answer the call as Earth’s Mightiest Heroes! But when the towering Terminus attacks, a new and insidious danger rears its head. One that the Avengers know all too well, and one that comes to them in the most dangerous of guises: that of a friend! Soon, the Ashen Combine, a collection of the Multiverse’s greatest monsters, descends from the Impossible City — and they destroy metropolitan areas for sport! The Avengers face the battle of their lives — and one will fall. But will the Impossible City fall with them? And what kind of doom might be unleashed upon the Earth as a consequence? Plus: Kang the Conqueror searches for the missing moment!



COLLECTING **AVENGERS (2023) #1-6** AND **TIMELESS (2022) #1** — BY JED MacKAY,
KALINDA VAZQUEZ, C.F. VILLA, IVAN FIORELLI, ALBA GLEZ, GREG LAND, JAY LEISTEN, PATCH ZIRCHER,
SALVADOR LARROCA, ELISABETTA D'AMICO, FEDERICO BLEE, MATT MILLA AND FRANK D'ARMATA.

T+

MARVEL